



October Events!
10/31 Halloween
See Events on pg. 25!

Word Search
on Page
36
Answer Key: Pg. 38

PIMA COUNTY
District Update 4
The latest from Pima County District 4
Supervisor Steve Christy

We have been drowning in violence. It seems to be everywhere and all the time.



I think of the horror of the murders of the Minnesota state legislator and her husband by someone disguised as a police officer, knocking at their door. I think of the young Ukrainian woman sitting alone after work on a railcar in Charlotte, stabbed to death while going home. I think of Charlie Kirk being assassinated while engaging in free speech and debate on a Utah college campus. And I think of the horrific event so close to home and so near to my work, where a young married couple, visiting Tucson for the first time, were innocently waiting for a streetcar. Suddenly, and without any provocation or warning, a man attacked the young husband with an axe in front of his horrified wife. The husband later died in a strange city, in a strange hospital room, surrounded by strangers. What are we to make of this?

We hear that violence has many gradations: political violence, gang violence, domestic violence, violence of passion and the definitions go on. But the result of any violence is always the same: meaningful lives snuffed out, families shattered and torn, children left parentless, communities and our nation devastated.

There seems to be one common thread in all acts of violence: the fragile and ignitable mental condition of the perpetrators of the violence. In the recent examples I cited, the criminals were all

deeply disturbed individuals. How were they able to roam freely on the streets to wreak their havoc? Many of them had shockingly long criminal records and history, and practically all emitted clues and warning signs that their behavior was turning violent. Yet they somehow are allowed to proceed into their dark and sick missions of death.

And we see mental illness stoked by drug addiction, or vice versa, spilling over in other daily aspects of our society. Everyone can agree that the vast majority of those who are suffering from homelessness have severe mental instabilities or drug addiction, or in most cases, both. Domestic violence has the same causal denominators.

In talking to many constituents, they express their frustration and impatience with those who refuse to hold people responsible for their actions. If people break the law with their behavior, they must be held accountable, no matter what their mental or physical condition may be. That approach seems to be working at Pima County's Transition Center where law breakers are given choices and directions after being arrested, incarcerated and released. "Let us help you help yourself by you getting help", the professional navigators are saying. We need the full cooperation and support of Pima County's Transition Center by the City of Tucson, the County Attorney, and all law enforcement, bearing in mind that those who break the law must be arrested and held accountable for their actions against our civil society.

I can't help but wonder, what is the status of the individual who so heinously murdered the young husband in broad daylight in the middle of downtown Tucson? Is he being held accountable for his savage actions? I sadly think that this incident, like so many others will be swept under the rug.

"Steve Christy"
continued on page 13

CITY OF TUCSON
Ward Update 4
The latest from Tucson Ward 4
Councilwoman Nikki Lee

El Tour de Tucson is one of Southern Arizona's signature events, touching communities across Pima



County, including Tucson, Corona de Tucson, Vail, Sahuarita, and Green Valley. We understand its economic power. It brings in millions through hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We fully support the event and the positive impacts it brings while making sure that residents in southeast Tucson and Vail do not face unnecessary burdens on the day of the ride.

Knowing how much this event impacts our community, I sent a letter to the El Tour Board in August to begin these conversations early. Our goal has been to be proactive, to address concerns in advance, and to get ahead of challenges that have come up year after year rather than waiting until November.

The reality is that many people are landlocked by the route and have an extremely difficult time getting around on that Saturday. As more medical infrastructure has come online, including additional hospitals and clinics, there are increased concerns around public safety. We need to make sure that people can reach emergency services and that first responders can reach those who need them.

Here are some of the short-term steps we are working on with the El Tour Board:

- More public outreach to explain this year's route and closures, with maps and timing.

- Additional training with law enforcement to make sure emergency vehicles and community members can quickly get through road closures and safely reach emergency centers like TMC and Northwest Hospital.

- Ensuring barricades are handled so closures happen exactly when advertised and open when promised.
- Direct channels for questions or concerns before and during the event.

Looking ahead to future years, we are working with El Tour to include someone from our corner of the community on the route committee and to evaluate alternate routes that could reduce the impact on residents and businesses in our area. We are also engaging Pima County and other partners to strengthen coordination and better support the neighborhoods most affected.

We want to support an event that brings visitors from across the world, boosts our local economy, and highlights Tucson as a cycling destination, while at the same time protecting access, safety, and daily life for our community. In our November Vail Voice article, we will share everything you need to know about this year's ride, including routes, closures, and resources, well ahead of the day of the event.

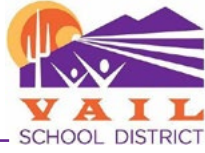
It is my hope that this year will be smoother for our community, with fewer hiccups and less disruption as we continue working on longer-term improvements. Please know that I am very aware of the challenges, that I am trying to be proactive, and that I am hopeful the steps being taken now will have a positive impact next month.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to

"Nikki Lee"
continued on page 13

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

VUSD Update



The Latest from Vail School District
Superintendent John Carruth

These conversations matter. The insights shared at the Joint Site Council meeting help guide the District's priorities and inform decisions not only for this school year but also for the years ahead. When parents, staff, and community members share their perspective, we are reminded that education is strongest when it is built in partnership.



Thank you to all who were in attendance, and thank you to all of our parents, staff, and community members who continue to support the young people of our community and remind them of their tremendous value!

We also had the opportunity to join with more than 400 members of the Vail community at our annual Vail Family Connections Day. I am continually amazed at the way our community steps up to provide meaningful opportunities for families to engage with one another. We had many breakout sessions that were taught by members of the community and school staff ranging from parenting tips on navigating social media and cell phones to simply finding joy in creating a painting project as a family. Thank you to all who participated in providing the high quality event.

I also wanted to give you a heads up about another opportunity coming this month for you to fill your school campuses, link arms with friends and neighbors, and have a great time providing some fun service. Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 25th. thevailvoice.com

Nearly all of our schools will have projects happening that day from moving rocks, painting fences and sidewalks, building animal enclosures, and so much more. Make a Difference Day is one of my favorite days, not only because of all of the beautification that happens across Vail, but also because of the friendships that are built, the camaraderie that is shared, and the message that is sent very loudly through action that young people in Vail matter deeply to the community. I especially love hearing from parents and children who point out the slats on the fence that they painted together or the rocks they moved together when visiting campuses later in the year.

Few things unite us more than serving together. This community that I have loved calling home for more than two decades is certainly united around the cause of taking care of its children. I'm grateful to link arms with you in continuing to take the actions that show children, in tangible ways, just how deeply they are valued here.

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.



GREATER VAILCHAMBER UPDATE

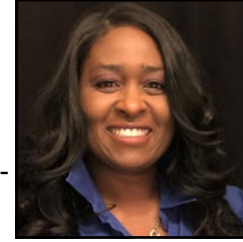


The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls,
President / CEO

The Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce proudly celebrated the inaugural Golden Spike Awards on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the elegant Desert Diamond Hotel. With nearly 300 community and business leaders in attendance, the evening was a powerful testament to the growth, collaboration, and innovation driving Southeast Pima County forward.

The event began with a warm welcome, presented by TEP's Steven Eddy and Hughes Federal Credit Union's Elisa Ross, setting the tone for an evening of recognition, inspiration, and community celebration.

This extraordinary event would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors. We extend our deepest gratitude to Presenting Sponsors Prime Movers TEP and HSL, and to our Main Generator Sponsors Diamond Ventures, Inc. and Hughes Federal Credit Union; Engine Governors Cox, Borderland, Concord General Contracting, AAA Landscaping, Larry Lucero, United Community Health Center, Bourn Companies, Priscilla Storm & Michael Reuwsaat; and Private Railcar Sponsors: Steamy Concepts, ASU, Cottonwood Properties, Novak Environment, Associated Asset Management, Mosaic Quarter, Northwest HealthCare, Swaim Associate Architects, Tucson Airport Authority, Acacia IT, Rite Way Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Vail School District, KE&G. Special thanks also go to all the additional sponsors whose contributions



made the evening such a resounding success. Our heartfelt thanks also to Desert Diamond Hotel for graciously hosting the event.

In one inspiring evening, the Chamber proudly presented 177 certificates of recognition and honored 38 organizations and leaders across 13 categories with Golden Spike Honors. While each honoree stood out for their impact, the true highlight of the night was bringing everyone together, businesses, leaders, and partners, working toward the shared goal of strengthening and growing our region.

Rather than focusing on "winners," the Chamber emphasized that everyone honored was a vital contributor to the Southeast's economic success. Each recognition acknowledged the vision, leadership, and investment that fuel the region's growth. "This evening was more than an awards program, it was a catalyst," said Dr. Denise Bowls, CEO of the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce. "One of my top priorities as CEO is to ensure we continue recognizing, thanking, and uplifting the businesses and leaders that make our community thrive. Visibility and acknowledgment are essential to building a stronger Chamber and a stronger region."

Although some organizations were not recognized this year, the Chamber emphasized that this new tradition would expand each year to reflect the many engines powering the Southeast. The Golden Spike Awards have laid a foundation for a tradition of gratitude, celebration, and connection. The Chamber is already looking ahead with excitement to next year's event. Until then, the Golden Spike Awards stand as a powerful reminder: when we celebrate together, we grow together.

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

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

This disclaimer informs readers that the views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the Vail Voice. No additional fact finding or research was done to confirm the accuracy of the article content.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to let you know just how important the lake and pond behind our house in Vista Del Lago, part of the Rancho Del Lago community, is to us. My name is Brett Muxen and I live with my wife Dawn and have had our house at 13751 E. Kirkwood Place for over 20 years. The primary reason for purchasing this home was due to the beautiful lake right behind our back yard in between the golf course holes 3 and 4. The Ranch Del Lago Golf Course and Mr. Mandell have not lifted a finger to help our community and has stopped pumping water into the lake for a long time now. It is now becoming a health and environment problem since all the fish are going to die and now the mosquitoes have rolled in.

Thank you for listening and I simply wanted you to know how we feel and watching this lake / pond dry up is a disgrace to our once lovely community.

Brett Muxen

Dear Editor,

At the AZ State Land Department's recent Board of Appeals meeting, they voted, without dis-

cussion, to put a 160 acre parcel of land up for auction. That parcel is blocking Copper World's access to their northern ranch property, which is planned to be a 500 acre Tailings Waste Storage Area, located directly next to established neighborhoods and 1.5 miles from the 1000 home Sycamore Canyon subdivision and Copper Ridge Elementary. If Hudbay gets this land, they will have full access to us.

No local agencies were told, no public notice, and it was added to the Agenda 24 hours before the meeting.

There is no need to extend a mine dump zone into a thriving community. Tailings dust will blow onto the leaves of plants, that wildlife depend on, will impact community gardens and what hunters harvest from the National Forest and elsewhere. Contaminants will seep into the aquifer, wells will be affected.

We were in this position 2 years ago, and we stopped it.

Next, Commissioner Sahid needs to pick a date. Please email her at rsahid@azland.gov and ask her not to allow this land to be auctioned! The next few weeks will be

critical. It takes a village. Please help us stop this!

Sign up for Save the Scenic Santa Rita's Newsletter for the most current information.

Cathy McGrath

Dear Editor,

Help us save one of the lakes at Rancho Del Lago. It is the largest lake and the only one left natural from the original ranch; the others were incorporated into the golf course. The current owner has shut off the water supply and is letting the lake dry up. This would be a shame as the lake is part of the original ranch and has been used for many years as a picnic spot and a favorite fishing hole. The lake was originally supplied with water from Cieniga creek. That supply was destroyed when the golf course was built and a water supply was furnished to maintain the lake through some piping. The current owner has shut off that supply and refuses to even discuss any arrangement to continue water supply to the lake. Losing this lake would be a shame as the rest of the original Ranch Del Lago has been swallowed up by subdivisions and the golf course, this lake is really the only original natural remnant of the ranch.

Dennis Albert

Dear Editor,

I can't help but echo the dismay voiced in the September issue about the potential loss of Sandy Pond in Rancho del Lago, apparently at the hands of the owner of the del Lago golf course. I have lived in del Lago for more than 15 years, and I've never seen anything like it. The water shortage is not the cause. Water could be purchased and transported to fill it, but instead our beautiful pond and wildlife sanctuary is becoming an eyesore and a hazard. Herons, egrets, cormorants, ducks, and turtles called this home. This is

willful destruction, happening in spite of the CC&Rs that require the golf course owners to maintain it! And, all good ideas to the contrary, there is NO PLAN to spend any money to make the soon-to-be empty pond into anything but an eyesore.

Our poor pond is the canary in the coal mine. If you currently enjoy a golf-course view--you may not have your view for long. How would you like to see the value of your home drop by \$30-40,000 because of the golf course owner's neglect?

I call on the Rancho del Lago HOA Board of Directors: Now is the time to act to enforce the CC&Rs, before it gets any worse! Don't stand idly by while we lose one of the valuable community resources you were elected to protect.

Jan Abramczyk

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a community meeting at Mica Mtn. high school where I was greeted by a sizeable mural affixed to the outside wall of the auditorium. I found its presence there disturbing. This image of multiple A-10 fighter jets seemed totally inappropriate for the space. While some may embrace such imagery, it left me with questions in respect to just what processes are involved when such choices are made, and "\$" committed to such projects?

We send our young people to these institutions with the hope and belief that they will better our world for their experiences there. Our greatest reward for their participation would be their discovery of just such a path. Images of war, and the machines that foster it, only reinforce consideration of a lesser possibility. For clarity's sake let me state that in sharing my thoughts here I in no way cast

"Letters to the Editor"
continued on page 5

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

"Letters to the Editor"
continued from page 4

disdain on the men and women who are in service to our country. Please know that I as well stepped forward in service during the Viet Nam era. That experience left me with deeper consideration for just when, and where my feelings for patriotism are best applied.

Words and Images mold us into the people we are. This simple fact is even more indelible during our formative years. The image I encountered served only to sadden me in thinking that such as this is what we feel is worthy of passing along to the generation that follows us. We can and must do better.

Rev. Royce Davenport

Dear Editor,

Our pond is in dire straits as of the time of this writing. It is at the lowest level that it has ever been and the fish, turtles and frogs that call it home are choking on the muck and sludge of what is left. How can anyone, are you listening Mr. Mandell, not care about the well being of the inhabitants of this pond that have been here longer than any of us or the wildlife that so desperately need this pond for that most precious resource, water? We have also received zero help from the Rancho Del Lago HOA who, for whatever reason, cannot follow our community Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions until they get permission from their "legal team" who last we checked used to work for the owner of the golf course. This reeks of conflicts of interest. Section 4 paragraph C of the CCR clearly states as follows - "golf course operator shall maintain, repair, and replace as reasonably necessary all landscaping (and all watering systems serving the landscaping) and improvements on the golf course visible from neighboring property, or visible from any common area or public right of way in

a neat, orderly and good condition that will not unreasonably detract from the appearance or attractiveness of Rancho Del Lago. If golf course operator fails to perform any minimum maintenance, the Board may notify golf course operator thereof, and, if golf course operator fails to perform the required minimum maintenance within twenty days after receipt of written notice thereof from the Board (and diligently proceed with completion thereof) the Association may perform the minimum maintenance." To simplify, the golf course is responsible for the upkeep of the entire golf course and if they do not the HOA can send a letter to the owner and he has 20 days to fix the issues. After 20 days the HOA can choose to have the issues fixed and bill the owner or ignore them and the entire community who elected them to serve us. Seems like a no brainer to me if you care about the community that you live in and your constituents who put you in office. We as a community are pleading with not only Mr. Mandell, but our own HOA, are you listening Ms. Miller, to do the just and right thing - Save Our Pond(s)

Ken Bender

Dear Editor,

As a 19 year resident of Rancho del Lago, Vista Del Lago resident that backs up the pond between our houses and Wingview, I would strongly hope that you would support the home owners to petition the golf course owners to fill all waterways in and around the course. This neglect on their part is effecting the wildlife habitat and our environment. This once beautiful landscape is in severe decline and becoming a health hazard to the residents, children and wildlife in the Vail area.

Karen McCormick

Dear Editor,

We live in a world in which many children grow up damaged by abuse, neglect or abandonment, leaving many adults wounded or scarred from what they experienced in their younger years.

An article in the Los Angeles Times on June 4, 2015 reported, "By tracking 2,668 people from early childhood through adulthood, researchers found that 13-year-olds who were frequent targets of bullies were three times more likely than their non-victimized peers to be depressed as adults.... Adults who are depressed are more likely to recall being bullied as kids."

Parental neglect of a child can cause similar damage. Cynthia Lubow writes, "Neglect can cause children to feel profoundly lonely and empty. It can make it more difficult for them to form friendships, causing them to feel even lonelier and preventing opportunities to develop social skills. They may feel like they don't fit in anywhere, and [they] learn to cope alone."

Tragically, this means that many people we encounter as we go about our day may be hurting deeply. Some may have learned to cover up their hurt and to push on bravely. With others, you can feel the hurt ooze out of them.

The good news is that God feels our pain and cares for every hurting individual.

The question is: What will you and I do in response to God's love and to the hurting people we encounter?

We can respond in fear. Or we can respond with love.

Fear offers no hope to a hurting world. Tom Cullen, one of Stephen King's characters in The Stand, thinks to himself, "They

were nice enough people and all, but there wasn't much love in them. Because they were too busy being afraid. Love didn't grow very well in a place where there was only fear, just as plants didn't grow very well in a place where it was always dark. Only mushrooms and toadstools grew big and fat in the dark."

It is love that can bring healing to a hurting heart. Therefore, Mother Teresa advised, "Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people."

When we love others, we are fulfilling the work of Christ, who said to his disciples, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Teresa of Avila stressed, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Let us be part of the healing of this world by loving those whom we encounter in our day.

Tom Tripp



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

Constitution Day '25

September's Constitution Day 2025 held at Acacia Elementary School was yet another successful celebration of the U.S. Constitution, America's founding, and the liberties we enjoy! Another great group of 5th graders won big awards this year for their essays and art posters focused on the 5 FREEDOMS OF THE 1ST AMENDMENT!

The opening ceremony began with Boy Scout Scott Schmidt performing a trumpet solo as Corona Boy Scout Troop 770 performed the Presentation of Colors. Abby Folkerts, recent Empire High School graduate sang a beautiful solo rendition of the National



Boy Scout Scott Schmidt

Anthem. Eli Curtis, Civil Air Patrol Cadet and Mica Mountain student, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony came to an end as a U.S. Border Patrol helicopter flew over while the audience waved American flags to help celebrate the occasion.

The crowd moved inside for a great program starting with Cael Soderman, a home school student reciting the Preamble and providing a summary of each Constitu-



Keynote Speaker, Jeff Utsch



Abby Folkerts singing National Anthem

tional Amendment. Aaron Russ, a local Boy Scout and Vail Academy student shared a 2025 Proclamation of the Constitution which was signed by Mr. Jeff Utsch.

Keynote speaker Jeff Utsch, a constitutional scholar, engaged the audience with interactive stories highlighting the Constitution's historical significance in the United States.

The First Annual Patriot Award, supporting and extending the reach of Constitution Day, was awarded to Mr. Raul Rodriguez whose enthusiasm and assistance significantly impacted the student art and essay contests!

We are so proud of the hundreds of Vail and Sahuarita students who submitted art posters and essays! The multi-purpose room was filled with families, teachers, and community members, all gathered to honor the achievements of these remarkable young citizens. Anticipation was palpable as everyone waited to learn which students would be recognized for their creativity and understanding of First Amendment freedoms. The judges, a mix of educators and community leaders, emphasized how impressed they were with the depth and passion in the students' work.

2025 ART Winners:
First Place \$100, Laura Ritchie, Wrightson Ridge
Second Place \$75, Rigoberto Aris-



Some Essay and Art Winners and Patriot Award Winner Mr Raul Rodriguez

tigue, Sahuarita Intermediate
Third Place \$50, Roberto Haws, Wrightson Ridge
Honorable Mention \$10, Zelda Ferris, Copper View
Honorable Mention \$10, Kairi Lagarda, Wrightson Ridge
Honorable Mention \$10, Indiana King, Wrightson Ridge



1st Place Essay Winner Indiana King

2025 ESSAY Winners:
First Place \$100, Indiana King, Wrightson Ridge
Second Place \$75, Reese Kane, Copper View
Third Place \$50, Hayden Brecheisen, Wrightson Ridge
Honorable Mention \$10, Santiago Agundez, Copper View
Honorable Mention \$10, Sofia

Vidal, Wrightson Ridge
Honorable Mention \$10, Alexander Vasilev, Senita Valley
Following the program and awards, attendees enjoyed the music of Rena Randall and the Due West Trio while shopping or collecting freebies at the many sales and educational booths. It



Aaron Russ and Eli Curtis

was a great day for everyone! We appreciate the many volunteers and donors who contributed so much to make this free community event possible! If you would like to be a part of Constitution Day 2026 as a volunteer, donor, or vendor, or if you have suggestions or ideas, please contact Peggy Gibson at csladypatriots@gmail.com We welcome everyone who is interested to be a part of future Constitution Day events.

By Peggy Gibson



Final Basing Decision for Special Operations Wing to Davis-Monthan AFB, Revisions to Maximize Effectiveness

Originally announced in August 2023, the plan to establish the 492nd SOW at Davis-Monthan AFB has been refined to prioritize mission effectiveness, cost efficiency and alignment with Air Force and Department of War priorities.

Following the required environmental analysis, these previously announced units will relocate to Davis-Monthan AFB:

- Headquarters, 492nd Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Florida
- 492nd Special Operations Theater Air Operations Squadron at Duke Field, Fla.
- 319th Special Operations Squad-

ron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

- Air Combat Command Intelligence Squadron, new activation

Additionally, as part of a refined plan, Davis-Monthan AFB is identified as the preferred location for the following units as part of the 492nd SOW:

- 34th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 20th Special Operations Squadron and 20th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico

The Air Force will begin the required environmental analysis on proposed changes beginning fall 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact the Air Force Press Desk at (703) 695-0640



Phones Down, Just Drive!

Phones Down, Just Drive! is honored to partner with all 6 Vail high schools and their students to help stamp out distracted driving. Together, we remind every driver entering or leaving school property to put their phones down and focus on the road.

In November 2019, two young lives were tragically lost when a driver, distracted by her phone, failed to stop for a vehicle waiting to turn. The impact pushed their car into oncoming traffic, and Paul Garcia and Caitlin Festerling both died at the scene of this horrific crash.

Through the commitment of today's students—many who are driving or preparing to drive—we take meaningful steps to prevent tragedies like this from happening to another family.

Remember: when you or a loved one are behind the wheel, your

only job is to drive. It is not to text, answer calls, check emails, or watch videos. One simple choice can change lives forever.

Phones Down, Just Drive! is a local nonprofit dedicated solely to raising awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. To volunteer, or to request a bumper sticker for your vehicle, contact us at info@phonesdownjustdrive.org.

Phones Down, Just Drive!
— It's the Law.

2ND ANNUAL PET EXPO
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
9AM - 1PM
(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)
VENDORS, SUPPLIES, TRAINERS, PET CARE, FOOD TRUCK & MORE
DRESS UP PET PARADE 10:30AM
DEL WEBB AT RANCHO DEL LAGO
10264 S. BLENDU WAY
VAIL, AZ 85641

Girlfriends Closet
The Chic Resale Boutique
We have expanded & now offer Men's Clothing/Accessory Items, Juniors, & Home Decor.
Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm
Sunday 12-5pm
60 N. Harrison Rd, Tucson 85748
(520) 207-5518
Visit us at Girlfriendscloset.shop



**TMC's
SPOOKTACULAR
Safety Fair**

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 18
10AM - 1PM**



Tucson Medical Center
RINCON



10350 E. Drexel Road
TMC Rincon Health Campus
South Parking Lot
Corner of Houghton & Drexel
Lots of community partners there
helping families learn to stay safe.

-  **Free hot dogs**
-  **Chips and drinks**
-  **Music**
-  **Inflatables**
-  **Free booster seats**
-  **Free bike helmets**






**Cage-Free
Dog Boarding**
Never Crowded.
Home Environment.
Room to *RUN, PLAY & RELAX!*



520-710-6667
Call Today or Visit us at
CampJimmyDog.com




**CERVANTES
LANDSCAPING**

Miguel Cervantes OWNER

- Free Estimates • Fair Pricing
- Fast and Friendly Service

Available Services:
ONE TIME CLEANUP
MONTHLY, WEEKLY MAINTENANCE
TREE TRIMMING

Miguel Cervantes	520-909-9426
Michelle Cervantes	520-461-8202
Jennifer Cervantes	520-979-2481

Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce

Influencing Vail's Future

*"To enhance growth opportunities and advance economic
development in the Greater Vail Area."*

13105 E Colossal Cave Rd | Vail, AZ 85641 | 520.261.8245



**OCTOBER
BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, Oct. 15th
7:30AM - 9:00AM

[Register](http://greatervailchamber.com)

greatervailchamber.com



Diamond Community Park
at Rocking K
7735 S. Rocking K Ranch Loop Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85747

Members - \$30
Non-Members - \$40

greatervailchamber.com



New Members

- Pools By Design
- First Things First
- American Legion Riders
- Silhouette Photography
- Tucson Federal Credit Union
- Arizona Senior Academy

Renewing Members

- Rite Way Heating, Cooling, and Plumbing
- Backus Realty Development
- Heart & Soul Kids
- Javelina Wholesale
- Edward Jones | Alexa Letarte



**VAIL
PLUMBING**

LICENSED BONDED AND INSURED
ROC CR37 312941

OVER 75 YEARS' INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

520-207-7224
OFFICE@VAILPLUMBINGAZ.COM

Owned and operated by Allen Schwartzberg

VAIL'S LOCAL PLUMBER

Whatever your dilemma, don't hesitate to call.

We can handle anything from little drips to whole home re-pipes and even complex commercial jobs.

WWW.VAILPLUMBINGAZ.COM






FINANCING AVAILABLE

MEMBER GREATER VAIL AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October Garden Tips

Spruce up your indoor space with houseplants

When you embellish interior spaces with houseplants, you're not just adding greenery. These living organisms interact with your body, mind and home in ways that enhance the quality of life.



Time to plant vegetables

asparagus, beets, bok choy, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese greens, collard greens, endive, fava beans, fennel, garbanzo beans, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard greens, onions, parsnip, peas, potatoes, radicchio, radish, rutabaga, shallots, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips

Get your culinary herbs planted this month

arugula, borage, calendula, caraway, chamomile, chervil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic chives, lavender, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, sorrel, thyme, winter savory



If this summer was too hot for you! PLANT A BIG TREE!

Tree-shaded urban surfaces can be cooler than unshaded ones by 11-25°C in summer



Mel L. Shipley ACNP



CITRUS FOR FALL PLANTING

Tangelos are hybrids resulting from the cross of mandarin and grapefruit or mandarin and pummelo.

Mandarins (Tangerines) are popular because most of the varieties are easy to peel and section well.

Limequats the fruit may substitute for lime as a condiment. Cold hardy and fruits year-round.

Grapefruit red grapefruit is sweeter than the white not true! The white grapefruit are just as sweet if allowed to fully ripen.

Lemon for our zone the best would be Lisbon or improved Meyers – both high yielding varieties.

Oranges many different varieties available, some are good for juicing (AZ Sweets) others eating.

Fruit Cocktail this is when multi varieties are grafted onto the same tree – combination vary so be sure to check the tags on the tree.



Where Plants Live & People Grow!



SPECIAL COUPON

\$5.00 Off over \$40.00 coupon code VV540

\$10.00 Off over \$70.00 coupon code VV1070

Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per customer. Must have coupon. Not valid on prior sales. Other restrictions apply. Expires Oct 31st, 2025

We Design, Deliver & Plant

Civano Nursery 5301 S. Houghton Road, Tucson AZ 85747 Tel: 520-546-9200

Family Plot

By Chuck Colbath

In past stories I have mentioned growing up in Dunbarton New Hampshire. Our ridgetop center of town was quite small and picturesque. The five bedroom colonial I grew up in was separated from our three room schoolhouse by the town cemetery. When we moved to Dunbarton my sister and I spent our early school years in that old schoolhouse with its ancient uneven slate blackboards. And we could see our house out the north windows.

Halloween was always something special, as Dunbarton still had evening trick or treat on Halloween. Concord to the northeast and Manchester to southeast both celebrated Halloween on Sunday afternoon. So a number of families from those cities would show up on the real Halloween. We would have more youngsters



“trick or treating” than there were children in the Dunbarton school system!

While we were still quite young, my sister and I went trick or treating with one of her friends. As we walked past the cemetery in the dark, I was thinking how so many referred to that as the “graveyard”. Suddenly we heard moans and the sound of rattling chains. We could not see where that was coming from until my dad popped up from behind a gravestone, rattling his tire chains!

That cemetery is where our family plot is, just behind that great old house that we remember so fondly.

While on a trip to Disneyland

when I was ten, I purchased the sound track of the Haunted Mansion, one of my favorite attractions. Come Halloween I decided to haunt our barn. I set up a big old speaker enclosure my dad made years earlier and had that haunted house album playing in the barn. On the second story, I attached a photography light to an oscillating fan, whose spooky light panned past the two windows on the second story. I hid behind my parents' car and remember one poor little girl whose mother kept encouraging her to go to the door. That poor girl just couldn't do it, finally throwing her bag in the air and running to her mother. I remember that to this day – sorry, Francine!

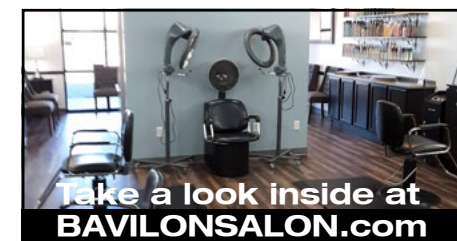
As the weather gets cooler and folks move into their pre-holiday mode, don't forget to book your holiday hair early.

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.

Please stop in for a look! We look forward to the opportunity to please. Our stylists' profiles, full menu with fair up-front pricing, and easy on-line booking are all at Bavilonsalon.com. Or call us at (520) 762-8787 and we will be happy to assist you.

Better care, Better hair!





BETTER CARE, BETTER HAIR.

CUT/COLOR SPECIALISTS, NATURAL & ORGANIC CARE.
BOOK TODAY. Call (520) 762-8787 or online @ BAVILONSALON.COM

 **SINCE 2011**

 **BAVILON SALON**

Huskers' Fans Welcome

Southern Arizonans for Nebraska (SOAZ4NE) is an official chapter of the Nebraska Alumni Association.

Alumni chapters are an extension of the Nebraska Alumni Association, serving alumni and friends across the country and around the world. Chapters support the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in a variety ways, from raising scholarship money for students to attend UNL to cheering for the Huskers at football watch parties.

In addition, chapters create fun opportunities for members to get to know each other through social and networking events. Over time, chapter members often become good friends – a UNL family away from home. Join your fellow Huskers at Famous Sams (Golf Links and Kolb) to watch the Nebraska Huskers take on their opponents!

(door prizes and raffles too!)

Go Huskers!

Please join us for the following football games at Famous Sams!



Our Newest Location!

Houghton & Drexel
10350 E Drexel Rd Suite 230
Tucson, AZ 85747
520-202-0401

Most People Agree, the Most Precious of Their Senses is Sight!

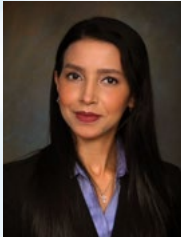
- ✓ Our physician/surgeons (M.D. & D.O.) offer medical exams including for cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes, etc. Dr. Felix is a cornea specialist.
- ✓ Our optometrists (O.D.) offer medical and vision exams.
- ✓ We will also have a full service optical shop, Desert Eye Optical.

Please visit our website at deserteye.net for more information.

Our Providers:



Karl A. Rosen, M.D.



Carmen L. Felix
Tacoronte, M.D.



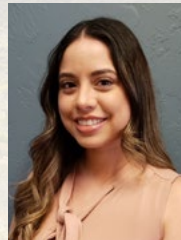
Timothy E. Marra
D.O.



Jack A. Aaron, M.D.



Zachary P. Pfau
O.D.



Stephanie Burrue
O.D.

DESERT EYE
ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Speedway & Wilmot
1110 N El Dorado Pl
Tucson, AZ 85715
520-327-5677

Green Valley
1150 S Calle de las Casitas Ste. 150
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520-625-7450



South East Area Council Community Meeting September 9, 2025

September's SEAC Community meeting was held at the W. Anne Gibson – Esmond Station Library. The Southeast Area Council (SEAC) is a non-profit information-sharing group representing Southeast communities of Pima County. Its mission is to provide a forum for information exchange, encourage civic engagement, and voice community interests and concerns. The September meeting was dedicated to discussing the RTA Next Plan, which has an impending vote next spring and significant implications for the region, particularly Southeast Pima County. The meeting was broadcast live on Facebook which usually reaches about 1,000 viewers.

Melanie Lawson, Public Relations Administrator for PAG and RTA
Melanie provided an overview of RTA and its funding mechanisms.

PAG (Pima Association of Governments)

- PAG is an association comprised of nine governments in Pima County - five municipal governments (Tucson, South Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita), two tribal governments (the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation), Pima County and the State of Arizona Transportation Board.

RTA (Regional Transportation Authority)



- RTA is comprised of the same nine governments working together on voter-approved projects.
- The mission of the RTA is to ensure safe and efficient regional movement and support economic vitality.
- Projects often cross jurisdictional boundaries and prioritize best practices for delivery and scheduling.

RTA's Impact and Benefits:

- Over the last 20 years, RTA has funded projects like roadway widenings, transit expansions, and new pedestrian/cyclist infrastructure, all with safety improvements.
- It supports economic vitality through both short-term construction jobs and long-term job creation complementing commercial and residential development (e.g., Houghton Road improvements leading to business growth).
- Benefits residents by improving commuting, school access, medical appointments, and offering diverse transportation options (bus, bike, walk, drive), especially connecting rural residents to city centers via services like paratransit.

RTA Funding – The Half-Cent Sales Tax:

- The RTA's projects are primarily funded by a half-cent sales tax, which accounts for approximately two-thirds of regional transportation funding (averaging \$120 million annually).
- In contrast, federal and state sources combined provide about \$50 million annually and are often more restricted in their use.
- The current RTA Plan and half-cent sales tax expire in mid-2026. The RTA Next Plan, along with a continued half-cent sales tax, will be on the ballot in March 2026.
- Consequence of Non-Approval: If RTA Next is not approved, the

region stands to lose two-thirds of its transportation funding overnight, potentially cutting vital services like the \$32 million in transit services.

RTA Next Plan Highlights:

- Aims to continue improvements for the next 20 years with a total budget of \$2.67 billion.
- **No Tax Increase: The proposed RTA Next tax is a continuation of the existing half-cent sales tax, not an increase.**
- Plan Elements
 - Roadway Projects: 31 new projects and 7 projects from the 2006 RTA Plan that require re-scoping or additional funding (due to factors like the 2008 recession and rising costs).
 - Safety, ADA & Active Transportation: Includes bicycle lanes and multi-use paths.
 - Arterial and Collector Road Pavement Rehabilitation: A new element added in response to significant public feedback on road quality.
 - Environmental: Includes wildlife linkages.
 - Transit: Covers the entire bus system, paratransit, and dial-a-ride services.
- The Plan aims to benefit everyone in the region, regardless of their mode of transportation.

Other Transportation Funding Sources:

- Melanie also briefly outlined other funding sources
 - \$23M annually for Federal Surface Transportation Funding which can only be used for Interstates & Highways, Arterial & Collector Roads, Transportation Alternative Projects, and Transit Capital
 - \$24M annually for Federal Transit Funding which can only be used for Transit Capital and

Transit Operations

- \$33M annually for Regional HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund) which can only be used for Interstates & Highways
- \$76M - \$170M annually for ADOT Discretionary Major Projects which can only be used for Interstates & Highways

- RTA funding can be used for all transportation areas mentioned above, is locally controlled, and dependent only on voter approval.

Question & Answer Highlights:

- The half-cent sales tax, if approved, would be renewed for an additional 20 years starting in 2026.
- Over 1,000 projects were completed under the first RTA, with 7 deferred roadway projects requiring re-scoping or additional funding now included in RTA Next.
- "Categorical buckets" (e.g., Safety, ADA, Active Transportation) are elements within the Plan with assigned dollar amounts, allowing jurisdictions to apply for funding for specific projects that fit these categories.
- "Safe Routes to Schools" is a specific line item under the Safety, ADA & Active Transportation element, with funding allocated.
- Project timing is phased into 5-year periods ("period one" through "period four"). A project in "period three or four" means it's scheduled for years 10-15 or 15-20. Advocacy to Pima County representatives is necessary for accelerating projects.

Dr. John Moffitt, Director of Infrastructure Policy for Southern Arizona Leadership Council, retired Pima County Director of Economic Development

Dr. John Moffitt focused on the specific impact of RTA Next and broader infrastructure developments on Southeast Pima County.

Southeast Pima County Projects in RTA Next:

- **Colossal Cave Road:** Identified as a very expensive and complex project due to navigating existing structures (Vail, schools, H2K "SEAC")

continued on page 14

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

"El Tour Hits the Road" continued from page 1

ride for experienced cyclists.

I spoke with TJ Juskiewicz, Executive Director of El Tour. The route was altered several years ago to go through Vail, Corona de Tucson and Rita Ranch. Juskiewicz says the modification has been a benefit for the event. "The change to the area highlights the beauty of the Rincon Mountain range

and Pistol Hill. This makes both a scenic and challenging part of the route."

Juskiewicz concluded by saying what differentiates El Tour from other bicycle races throughout the county is that El Tour has helped to raise \$130 million dollars for charities ...making it a true stand-out!

By Lucretia Free



Tour de Tucson Routes with Impact Times 2025



thevailvoice.com

"Steve Christy"

continued from page 2

Finally, another factor must be addressed: Speech. Words do matter and freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences. A recent and disturbing trend that we are seeing in violence is the impact inflammatory words can have on mentally disturbed and troubled individuals. Constant and repetitive false and misleading characterizations of individuals or groups can motivate unstable people to violence.

We have seen this happen on the national level, and here in Pima County, there are examples of County employees, paid by your tax dollars, posting violent, hateful and horrific diatribes about individuals and recent events. Yet because these County employees generated their posts "on their own time with their own devices," no action can or will be taken, under the protection of free speech, we have been told. Any thinking person would agree that there is no place for individuals who make such statements on the County's payroll. There should be consequences.

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

Beautify Your Home with
PROFESSIONAL & DEPENDABLE LANDSCAPING AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.
Landscape installations, One time clean ups, Irrigation system installs, landscape lighting & Irrigation repairs
520.326.7209
www.sonoranscapesinc.com
Free ESTIMATES **SONORAN SCAPES** LANDSCAPING INC. **BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS**
Servicing Tucson & Surrounding areas since 2000 ROC#256984

"Nikki Lee"

continued from page 2

reach out to our team at the Ward 4 Council Office at ward4@tucsonaz.gov and/or 520-791-3199.



City of Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee
520-791-3199
Ward4@tucsonaz.gov
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward4
/CouncilwomanLee
@nikkilee_az
@CouncilwomanLee
or: www.facebook.com/cotward4

Your Hometown Newspaper
Looking to Get Noticed?
Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4
33 N. Stone Avenue, Floor 11
Tucson, AZ 85701
520-724-8094
district4@pima.gov
Advertise Here!
Contact Sales:
Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654
THE VAIL VOICE | thevailvoice.com

October 2025

13

"SEAC"

continued from page 12

project) and crossing two railroad levels, explaining its longer timeline.

• Rita Road Traffic Interchange:

Crucial for connecting the Sonoran Corridor, a bypass planned to divert heavy traffic from Mexico away from downtown Tucson.

Critical Implications if RTA Next Fails:

• **Transit:** Loss of \$32M in annual transit funding, impacting services like paratransit and park-and-ride in areas like Rita Ranch and Houghton.

• **Road Rehabilitation:** The \$177.6M allocated for arterial (major roads like Houghton) and collector (subdivision feeder roads like Mary Ann Cleveland) street rehabilitation would be unavailable.

• **Safety Improvements:** Funding for 106 hawk lights (pedestrian crossing lights) and a \$30 million new traffic light control system would be lost.

• **Unfinished Projects:** The \$250-400 million needed for the 7 deferred projects from the previous RTA would not be secured.

• **Loss of jobs:** An economic prediction suggests a loss of 54,000 jobs over 20 years without RTA Next funding.

RTA Next Financial Realism:

• The RTA Next committee adopted a "pessimistic schedule" for revenue projections, learning from the previous RTA's overestimation (due to the 2008 recession and slower population growth). This aims for a much better chance of completing projects.

• The PAG board has agreed to contribute its first five years of HURF funding to accelerate RTA projects, with various jurisdictions prioritizing these efforts.

Economic Development in Southeast Pima County:

• **H2K Project:** 2,160 acres of state land (east of Houghton, south of Mary Ann Cleveland) master-planned for large-scale industrial growth, creating jobs and development fees for infrastructure.

• **Southeast Employment and Logistics Center (SELC):** A 3,000-acre area around the fairgrounds, a major employment hub, impacted by the Davis Monthan departure corridor restrictions on high-density development.

• **Sonoran Corridor:** A proposed 4-lane freeway bypass (I-19 to I-10, connecting El Toro/Sahuarita to Rita Road/I-10). It aims to reduce downtown congestion, open 16 sections of undeveloped state land south of the airport for industrial and residential development and generate additional tax revenue. The Tier 2 study is underway, with the Rita Road to airport segment being the highest priority.



Question & Answer and Broader Discussion (included input from Priscilla Storm (Diamond Ventures Vice President and Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chair):

• **Wider Roads vs. Alternative Modalities:** A debate arose regarding the continued focus on widening roads versus investing more in public transit, bike paths, and walkability. Concerns were raised about safety for pedestrians and cyclists on high-speed roads and the environmental impact of expanding roadways.

• **Response:** RTA Next does in-

clude significant funding for transit and bikeways (\$100 million+ for pedestrian/bikeway improvements), and individual roadway projects often incorporate bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Jurisdictions also hold open houses during the design phase for public input.

• **Transit in Southeast Pima County:** The lack of comprehensive bus service in the Southeast is attributed to cost and population density. While Sun Tran (City of Tucson) operates, Pima County and other communities also contribute to extending services to outlying areas. Advocacy to county supervisors is crucial for expanding routes based on demand.

• **Funding Challenges and Advocacy:** The discussion highlighted the challenge of negotiating from "scarcity" in transportation funding. Arizona's gas tax is not inflation-adjusted, and electric vehicles currently contribute little to road funding, creating future revenue shortfalls. For unincorporated areas like the Southeast, advocacy for allocation is more difficult due to the political landscape and how funding is prioritized for incorporated communities. Despite these challenges, the inclusion of projects like Colossal Cave Road, Mary Ann Cleveland Way, and the Rita Road interchange in RTA Next were considered significant wins for the area, underscoring the need for unified and consistent community advocacy.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for the speakers as well as for Gerald Lamb's ongoing technical assistance. If you would like to be invited to future SEAC Community meetings or would like more information about SEAC, send an email to seac@seazcouncil.org.

By Elaine Schmerbeck

seac@seazcouncil.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SEArizonaCouncil>

South East Area Council (SEAC), Serving the Communities of Southeastern Pima County

Climate Review



A Look Back

The August & Full Summer 2025 Climate Report

Starting out with temperatures: August 2025 was the 2nd hottest in Tucson recorded history. The average high was 102.5 degrees / 3.9 degrees above average. The average low was 78.7 degrees / 3.5 degrees above average. The high of 112 on the 7th is an August all time high, which tied the 112 degrees recorded August 1, 1993. The next day, August 8th, the airport had a low of 85 degrees, which tied the record low warm temperature recorded twice in previous August dating back over 100 years.

For the summer months, June-August, Tucson recorded the 4th warmest summer in history. The average high temperature of 102.4 degrees is the 6th warmest summer average high (2.4 degrees above average) while the average summer low of 76.7 degrees (2.5 degrees above average) was the warmest ever. This averaged to the 4th warmest summer since records began in the 1880s.

On the rainfall side, I had my driest August since I started taking records in 2011. I only recorded 0.23" of rain is well below my 15-year average of 2.19." The Tucson airport only recorded 0.11" which is well below its 30-year average of 1.98." This is the 3rd driest August in Tucson history with records dating back to 1895. The first and second driest August both happened in the 1920s, 100 years ago.

As is typical with the monsoon, rainfall varied greatly through-

"Climate Review"

continued on page 15

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

"Climate Review"
continued from page 14



out the Vail readership area for August. The low points were Vail central, including Del Lago and areas West to Kolb and I-10; Only 0.05 to ¼" rain amounts were recorded. A few isolated areas recorded around an inch of rain on Marsh Station Road, Mescal, and near the intersection of Old Spanish Trail and Camino Loma Alta.

For the Tucson Metro area, much of Tucson recorded anywhere from 0 to .5." Sahuarita did better with 1-1.5" rain amounts common. The hot spot was the Dove Mountain area which received 2-4" rain amounts, most occurring during two events in late August. So, this limited area was actually above average for August.

For the entire summer, June-August, I only recorded 2.41" which is well below my summer average of 6.01" If it was not for that unusual storm on June 1, I would have only recorded 1.72." This is still better than my driest summer, 2020, where I only recorded 1.62." Between Covid and a very hot and dry summer, 2020 was miserable.

The Tucson airport recorded 2.34" of rain for summer 2025 and its 30-year average is 4.42." This was the 15th driest summer in the past

130 years. The dry areas in Vail for summer 2025 were Rita Ranch and the Kolb and I-10 areas where rainfall amounts less than 2" were reported. Central Vail did a little better with 2-3" rainfall amounts and some areas around Mescal and Marsh Station Road received 3-5" of rain.

For the Tucson Metro area, rainfall varied from just under an inch to around 5" with the higher amounts at Dove Mountain and the Catalina foothills to the extreme East side of town. I will report on September next month. However, at the time of this writing on September 22, with only 8 days left in the summer monsoon, it is still very warm and humid. From my perspective at my location in Del Lago, this is the bad monsoon that will not end :) Fortunately, rain has fallen and rain is in the forecast through the end of September. However, Vail central is still one of the driest areas in the Tucson metro area with only 0.5" rain amounts so far in September. However, just to my northeast at the Old Spanish Trail and Camino Loma Alta intersection, a September hot spot exists with 2.5-3" rain amounts.

Parts of Tucson have also received around 2" of rain. So, when I do report for September, temperatures will most likely be warmer than average, and rainfall will have areas below average, and above average. I will also provide data for the complete 2025 monsoon.

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.



Update on Houghton Town Center

Coming soon!

1. Heartland Dental (under construction)
2. Valvoline (under construction)
3. Chipotle (coming)



Chase Bank Opens Rita Ranch Branch

I spoke with Vivian Padilla, U.S. Media Relations - Southwest Region:



Why did Chase move? At Chase, we regularly review our branch network to ensure we're meeting the evolving needs of our customers and the community. Our decision was based on a variety of factors, including customer feedback, accessibility, and our commitment to providing the best possible banking experience in Tucson. We believe the new location will better serve our clients in a private space while offering enhanced convenience and meeting the growing needs of the East Valley."

Why did you move from inside the grocery store (and not into another grocery store)? "We understand that many customers valued the convenience of our branch within the Fry's grocery store. We're committed to ensuring a smooth transition at our new, full-service branch nearby. We encourage customers to visit and experience the expanded services and improved facilities, like the drive-up and walk-up ATMs, which are also available afterhours. Our new branch also offers many upgrades to space and privacy for our customers."



What is Chase hoping to accomplish with the new branch, will there be additional services offered? "Our goal with the new branch is to provide an even high-

"Construction Zone"
continued on page 18



Located in
Voyager RV Resort
8701 S. Kolb Road
Tucson, AZ 85756

- OPEN 8AM-8PM EVERYDAY FOR BREAKFAST LUNCH & DINNER
- HAPPY HOUR 3-6PM EVERYDAY
- FULL BAR WITH 14 DRAFT BEERS

FATWILLYSAZ.COM (520) 574-5800

1/16 Page Ad Space Available Advertise Here!

Contact Sales:

Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654

THE VAIL VOICE | thevailvoice.com



YOUR LOCAL
LANDSCAPE BUILDERS



Landscape Design
Artificial Turf
Paver Patios
Hardscapes
Boulders
Drip Irrigation
Decorative Rock
Saguaro Planting

est. 1974

CONTACT US TODAY FOR
A FREE QUOTE
(520) 308-7000

LICENCED & INSURED ROC 108391 CR21
Vail Landscape Builders
PO Box 1019 Vail, AZ 85641
vaillandscapebuilders@gmail.com
vaillandscapebuilders.com

Skyward



Star Gazing

Skyward for October

It was late in the afternoon of 19 July, 1963. I was a 15-year-old patient at the time at the Jewish National Home for Asthmatic Children in Denver, Colorado, and had begun my association with the Denver Astronomical Society. The people running the Asthma Home had generously granted permission for me to return home for a week in order to see a total eclipse of the Sun that would occur on Saturday, July 20.

Late that afternoon the day before the eclipse, Dad awoke from a nap in a terrible mood. He turned towards Mom and said, "All David cares about are his damned stars."

Obviously I was upset to overhear his words but I let them pass. His mood improved, and the next day we three saw a spectacular total eclipse of the Sun. Having a lifelong curiosity about history, Dad was flabbergasted when the eclipse, which had been predicted millennia earlier by the ancient Greeks, began right on time, to the second. The saros goes all the way back to the Chaldean astronomers in the centuries BCE, and was understood by Ptolemy, Pliny, and Hipparchus.

The only issue we had was at the start of totality. I took off my eclipse glasses, and my parents had fits telling me to put them back on. I had a choice. I could spend the sixty seconds of totality arguing with them that it is perfectly safe to witness the total phase without protection, or I could just put my glasses back on.

I put my glasses back on. Then



Kernny Wiener and family (me, Mom and Dad)

I turned away, took them off, and enjoyed the total eclipse.

Years later, Dad and I were walking together. "Do you remember," he inquired, "when I awoke from my nap and said that all you care about are your damned stars?"

I admitted that I did remember. "May I take those words back?"

"Why? You were right. That was all I cared about back then."

"But if I had had the faintest idea what you were going to do with your damned stars, I would have been so much more supportive." (And he said that to me before I found my first comet.).

In the 41 years since I found that comet, I have had more joy that I can imagine. Never have I gone out to my observatory to look at the stars, and not felt better, far better, when I went back inside. My parents, and my wife, are gone, but I have a daughter, a son-in-law, two grandchildren, and a great grandson. When they ask me a question—even for a second, the charisma intensifies.



Wendee, Nanners, Kabanners, Summerkins and Mom

And it is not just observing. My relationship with many astronomy societies, including the Denver Astronomical Society, which has continued over the years, has recently intensified. I am their poet laureate and get to share a poem at the start of their meetings.

Whether I am alone or with a group of people, for me, nights under the stars are an indescribable thrill.

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.



FALL ARTS/CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

October 18th 9:30 am-6:00 pm

October 19th 8:30 am-2:00 pm

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
300 N. Tanque Verde Loop Rd

(1 mi. east of Houghton between Broadway & Speedway)

35 Vendors, Bake Sale, Quilts, Seasonal, Jewelry...
Huge Raffle of Vendor Items, Quilt!
Food Court: All Day, Both Days

October in Vail: Planting and Preparing Your Trees for the Seasons Ahead

As the intense heat of summer begins to fade, October in Vail, Arizona, brings with it a welcome shift in our desert landscape. This month is a prime time for tree care, marking a crucial transition from the rigors of summer to the milder, cooler months ahead. For both seasoned gardeners and new residents, October offers the perfect window to plant new trees and prepare established ones for a season of rest and growth.



Finally thinking about planting a new tree? Let's do it in October. The moderate temperatures allow new trees to establish their root systems without the stress of

extreme heat. If you've been considering adding a new shade tree, a colorful accent, or a new citrus variety, October is a great time to get them in the ground.

For existing trees, October is a great time to consider your watering schedule. Instead of daily or every-other-day watering, switch to deep, infrequent soaks. This encourages deep root growth, making your trees more resilient to future heat and drought. A good rule of thumb is to water for a longer duration, but less often. For native trees like Palo Verde and Mesquite, this could mean deep watering once every two to three weeks.

October is also an excellent time to inspect your trees for any signs of stress or damage from the summer. Look for dead, diseased, or broken branches and consider removing them. While major pruning is best done in late winter, a light trimming to clean up the

canopy can be beneficial now. This improves air circulation and helps your tree recover from the summer's strain.

October is also a great month for a final round of fertilization for certain trees. While native trees may not need it, fruit trees like lemons and limes benefit from a late-summer or early-fall feeding. This provides them with the nutrients they need to support winter fruit production. Use a fertilizer specifically designed for citrus that includes micronutrients like iron and zinc.

By focusing on smart planting, adjusting your watering, and providing a final feeding where needed, you can ensure your trees are strong and healthy, ready to provide beauty and shade for years to come in the beautiful Vail landscape.

By Manuil J. Chavez
Owner of Four Arrows Garden



Take care of your trees.



If you see this guy by your house... Call Us!





MR. PACK RAT

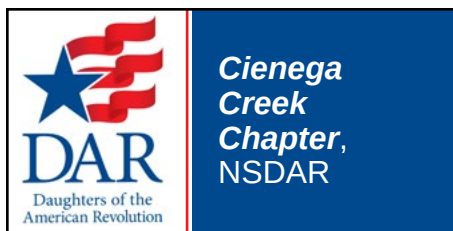


Call Now!
Schedule a **FREE Inspection**

\$30 .off
Pack Rat Elimination



520 ▲ 529 ▲ 9191 **SAFE • HUMANE • EFFECTIVE • GUARANTEED**



Celebrating the United States Constitution

For the second consecutive year, the local National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Cienega Creek Chapter participated in the 4th annual Constitution Day event at Acacia Elementary School hosted by the Common Sense Lady Patriots of Vail. This local community-centric event was held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, to celebrate the 238th anniversary of the United States Constitution that was signed on September 17, 1787.

The Constitution Day program started with the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, benediction, helicopter flyover, and the reading of a Proclamation declaring Constitution Week starting on September 17 to September 23.

Some chapter members dressed in colonial garments to greet the Constitution Day attendees and share information from a variety of historical perspectives. The NSDAR Cienega Creek Chapter displayed several traveling themed trunks of colonial and American Revolution artifacts. The traveling trunks include replica games, time period hands-on materials, books, lesson plans with worksheets, and more. The traveling trunks are used to support teachers by providing educational resources and to make student learning fun, interactive, and relatable. If you are interested in more information about the chapter's traveling trunks, contact cienegacreektrunks@gmail.com.

Other displays included the flags of the United States, tattered flags could be dropped off to be retired,



and new US flags were handed out.

Adults and kids alike enjoyed the quill pen writing station which enabled them to sign their name or write sections of the Constitution using a quill pen, an ink well, and parchment paper, just like our founding fathers did in 1787!

Congratulations to all of the students that participated in the art and essay contests and thank you for all of the teachers' support. The students' artistry and perspectives about our country's founding document was inspiring.

The United States Constitution was first ratified by the state of Delaware in 1787, and the ninth state was New Hampshire in 1788 making the Constitution official. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are the Bill of Rights which were added in 1791 to protect individual liberties. The opening lines of the Constitution are known as the Preamble, which outlines the purpose and goals of the document and starts with the famous phrase, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union..." And, the United States Constitution is the oldest written national constitution still in use globally.

The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NS-



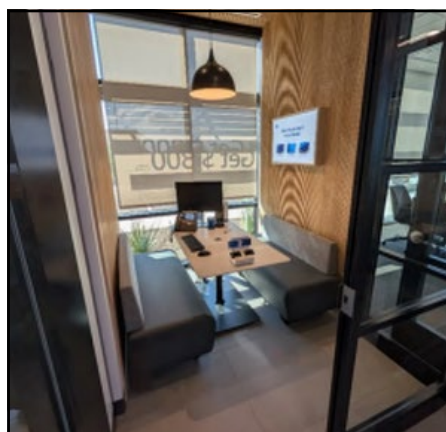
DAR) is a non-profit, non-political, worldwide service organization devoted to Historic Preservation, Education, Patriotism, and family history. If you are interested in joining or have questions and inquiries for the Regent, Kelly Hansen please email cienegacreekregent@gmail.com or the Registrar at cienegacreekregistrar@gmail.com.

com. For more details about Constitution Week or the NSDAR Cienega Creek Chapter, contact Jane Russ, Cienega Creek Chapter Constitution Week Chairperson at JRussccdar@gmail.com

By Jane Russ
Constitution Week Chair

"Construction Zone" continued from page 15

er level of service to the growing Tucson community. The new location features modern amenities, enhanced technology, and a full range of financial services, including personal, private client and business banking, financial advice, and access to our team of specialists. We're dedicated to helping our customers achieve their financial goals and supporting the local community."



Is Chase hiring at this location?

"Our Rita Ranch branch is ready to serve the community. To prepare for the expansion, we added a private client advisor and a relationship banker to our team. This branch can now provide information and solutions to the growing wealth, estate planning and retirement needs of the community. Our team of experienced specialists are available to offer support from Monday to Friday (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Saturday (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)."

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

AZ ADVENTURES OUTDOORS

Discovering Nature

Great Sand Dunes

Sand, both singular and plural, is the fine debris from rock. Each grain of sand is a time traveler. Not the kind that whirs through wormholes or slips through quantum cracks, but one that tumbles slowly through epochs—nudged by wind, coaxed by water, and finally laid to rest in a place it never chose. These grains are the memoirists of the planet, each one a fragment of a mountain's sigh, a canyon's collapse, or a river's forgotten rage.



It's easy to overlook sand. We remove the mote in our eye, brush it off our shoes, shake it from our towels, curse it when it finds its way into our sandwiches. But here, in the shadow of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, sand demands reverence. It rises—not in defiance, but in quiet majesty—into dunes that dwarf buildings and challenges hikers. The Great Sand Dunes are not merely a pile of debris; they are a cathedral of erosion, a monument to patience.

Like the gyres that gather plastic in the Pacific's infamous "garbage patch," wind and water conspire here too—but their cargo is ancient. A hoofprint, a fallen tree, a careless rockslide: these are the catalysts that set a grain adrift.

And once freed, it joins the slow choreography of geology. Weathering breaks it down; erosion carries it away. Eventually, it finds its kin again, and together they build something vast.

If compressed into sandstone, great canyons, freakish hoodoos, and high plateaus bring intrigue and variety to the landscape. The millennial cycle of sand to sandstone to sand is as old as the earth. Dune building is just part of the process.

The dunes themselves are shaped by wind's whimsy and gravity's stern hand. At 34 degrees—the angle of repose—they collapse and reform, sculpted into barchans, transverse, parabolics, hebkha, and starburst patterns. Star dunes, the prima ballerinas of this sandy ballet, pirouette tallest under the influence of multi-directional winds.

With the mountains as the backdrop and the endorheic lakebed as the fore-drop, the decomposed rock particles have nowhere to go other than to pile up into massive sand dunes -- 750 feet, the tallest in North America. From the top, the nearby peaks loomed like ancient sentinels, snow-capped and solemn. Below, the dunes rippled like a frothing sea. It felt like standing on a beach where the tide never comes in, and the mountains rise like waves that forgot how to crash. Recognizing its uniqueness, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in southern Colorado was established by Congress on November 22, 2000.

Medano Creek, fed by snowmelt, guards the dunes like a moat around a castle. I stood at its edge, contemplating karma and creek crossings. Had it been void of humanity, I might have turned back. But children—those fearless ambassadors of joy—splashed through with abandon. Their laughter was the bridge I



needed. I stepped in barefoot, the cold water a baptism of sorts, and began my ascent.

Barefoot hiking a dune is not unlike dancing uphill on marbles. Each step forward is half a step back. It's a waltz with the Earth: one-two-three, slide. One-two-

three, slip. The summit, 750 feet above the creek, demanded 1,125 feet of effort. But the view I had—oh, the view—was worth every grain.

That single grain of sand, torn from rock a million years ago, had found its way here. And so had I. Together, we stood atop a monument built not by hands, but by time. Grain upon grain a gazillion times over. Remarkable? Yes. But more than that—mesmerizing.

Rob Samuelson is an executive and adventurer supported by his long-suffering but supportive wife!





Short-Term Care for Loved Ones in Need



Academy Villas

*Where Compassionate
Care Comes First*

- The Academy Villas Assisted Living and Memory Care residences offer short-term stays for persons needing assisted care and for family members seeking a brief respite from caring for loved ones.
- A flat daily fee covers all in-house services, including supportive care, furnished private room, meals, activities, and housekeeping.

Learn more

☎ (520) 647-7500 🌐 www.academyvillas.org 📍 7700 S. Vivaldi Court

Academy Villas is a non-profit facility founded, owned and professionally operated by the Academy Village. Most facilities and amenities of the Village are open to residents of the Academy Villas.

Preschool Is Powerful!

Vail Preschool Programs Lead the Way

When it comes to preparing children for success in school and beyond, pre-school matters, and in the Vail School District, preschool is setting the standard.

The Vail School District's Community Programs preschools are raising the bar for early childhood education in Arizona. With 90% of sites holding a 4-star or better rating from Quality First and 100% rated at least 3-stars, Vail's programs consistently outperform other providers. On average, Vail preschools maintain a 4.0 rating, surpassing Amphi (3.16), TUSD (3.89), and La Petite (3.2). Statewide, only 83% of Arizona's 1,455 pre-schools meet the 3-star benchmark, making Vail's success particularly notable.

The results show in student performance. VUSD preschoolers are less likely to score below average and more likely to excel compared to peers. Eighty-seven percent score at or above average on readiness benchmarks, and at every level—below, average, and above—children who have attended a Vail Preschool match or outperform their peers. Kindergarten teachers report that these children transition smoothly, carrying with them confidence, kindness, and a love of learning that sets the tone for their elementary years. "The students who came from the Community



Programs Pre-K program are role models in my Kindergarten class—eager to learn, respectful, and kind," said Esmond Station Kindergarten Teacher, Karma Lewis. "They transitioned with confidence, already loving school because of the community Community Programs built. Community Programs is truly creating loving leaders at Esmond Station."

Preschool is more than early academics; it is the foundation for lifelong success. During this critical window of brain development, children build essential skills in communication, problem-solving, and self-regulation. High-quality preschool also nurtures social and emotional growth, giving children the opportunity to practice independence, develop friendships, and build resilience. These experiences prepare them not only for kindergarten

but for the challenges and opportunities of life beyond the classroom.

Families have access to 12 unique preschool sites offering programs such as Chinese and Spanish immersion, inclusive classrooms for children with special needs, and connections to a child's designated home school.

With highly trained educators—like Christina Gutierrez, a Teacher of the Year nominee with a Master's in Education—Vail delivers high-quality learning in nurturing environments. "I love how excited they are at this age just to learn. I love experiencing first learning experiences with them," Christina said. She says they are also learning social and emotional development. "We teach them how to share the space with other kids, how to take turns, and that all prepares them for kindergarten and just for life."

Add in reasonable tuition, multiple subsidy options, and available space, and it's clear why parents say that Vail Community Programs help children start their school journey with confidence, curiosity, and community.

Go to VailKids.org to learn more!

VAIL
Unified School District

**"Where Education is
a Community Effort"**



vailschooldistrict.org



FINE ARTS SPOTLIGHT

Behind the Curtain: Student Designers Take Center Stage at Cienega and Empire Theatres



Audiences were even invited to a Post-Show Tour to meet the student designers and learn about the creative process behind the scenes.

Meanwhile, over at Cienega High School, tech theatre students are hard at work

While audiences sit back and enjoy the show, there's a dedicated team of student technicians working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring every production to life. At both Cienega and Empire High Schools, technical theatre programs are thriving, with students taking full creative control over sets, lights, sound, costumes, props, and more.

At Empire High School, the season kicked off with a dynamic and successful run of *The Royal Double Feature: Queens and Six, the Musical – Teen Edition*. The show ran from September 17–20 in the VTOTA, drawing in packed houses and rave reviews. The true stars behind the scenes? Empire's advanced and intermediate tech theatre students, who designed and built every aspect of the production from the ground up.

In Empire's tech program, students dive into the script early, creating full-scale design plans for set, costume, makeup, lighting, sound, and publicity. From sewing costumes from scratch to constructing sets using materials sourced from Lowe's, their hands-on experience goes well beyond the classroom. "All of the technical elements for our shows are created by the students," said Richard Gremel, Empire Theatre Teacher. "They're responsible for budgets, schedules, deadlines—everything it takes to make a production happen."

preparing for their upcoming fall play, *A Brief Unit of Interdimensional Heroism* by Alan Haehnel. This group of second- and third-year students, all of whom completed beginning drama before entering the tech track, take on critical roles in building and running the school's productions.

At Cienega, students are required to crew at least one show per semester and participate in an eight-hour "build day," gaining valuable hands-on experience. Veteran tech students become area heads in shop, props, costumes, lights, or sound, taking leadership in designing and executing those elements for the show.

After wrapping up a successful Monologue Showcase in August, the team is now focused on the fall play, with in-school performances on October 16 and 17, and public performances on October 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with tickets available at the door—\$10 general admission, \$7 for students and staff.

From planning to production, both schools are proving that the spotlight isn't just for the actors. The real magic often happens in the wings, where student designers bring imagination to life through technical artistry, teamwork, and an impressive level of professionalism. As the season unfolds, one thing is clear: the future of theatre is in very capable hands.

VAIL
Unified School District

**"Where Education is
a Community Effort"**



vailschooldistrict.org



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Vail Sports Teams Kick off Fall Season

The Vail School District is seeing a strong start to the fall sports season, with teams and individual athletes from various high schools making their mark.

FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL

Mica Mountain's football team holds a 2-1 overall record and is hosting Sahuarita for its first home game coming up. Cienega's team has a 2-2 overall record and celebrated a dominant 56-0 homecoming victory against Nogales to open region play. Empire students, Boden Estis and Joshua Garner, have received several offers to continue their football careers after high school.

On the volleyball court, Mica Mountain's girls' team is undefeated in the regular season. Standout player Soso Okpara, an Air Force Academy commit, was named the 4A Conference Offensive Player of the Year. She also ranks in the top five for hitting percentage in Arizona for the 2024-25 season. The Empire volleyball team went 3-1 in a recent small schools invite.

CROSS COUNTRY & GOLF

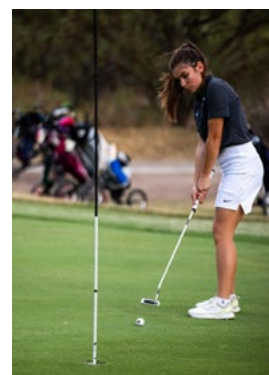
Mica Mountain's cross country team is having a great season. Freshman Eshe Stockton has consistently placed in the top 20 in all invites. She finished second at both Sunnyside's Los Mezquites Invitational and the Benson Invite. Taryn Baldwin, a senior, placed fifth at the Benson Invite. Cienega's cross country team is also performing well and preparing for a major upcoming meet at Toka Sticks in Phoenix. In golf, both the boys' and girls' teams at Mica Mountain are working to qualify for the State tournament. Tyla Greenwood from Mica Mountain set a course record at Fred Enke in September. At Cienega, the girls' golf team has won three matches so far this season. Abby Chandler led the way by shooting a personal best score of 38 at Del Lago Golf Club. The boys' team is also performing well and looking to make a push toward the state tournament.

SWIM & CHEER

The boys' and girls' swimming teams at Mica Mountain recently beat Cienega, St. Augustine, and Douglas. Cienega's swim team has 27 members this season, including 9 seniors. They've completed four dual meets and two invitationals so far. Several swimmers have already qualified for state events, with hopes of adding more at upcoming invitationals on October 18 and October 24-25.

Sophomores Michael Hess and Hailey Kennedy are among the team's top performers this year. Senior swimmer Richard Graham is being scouted by college coaches for potential collegiate swimming opportunities.

The Empire cheer squad earned multiple awards at a UCA Camp, including four Spirit Sticks, a Blue Ribbon for their sideline routine, and a Gold Ribbon for their camp routine. They also took second place for their small traditional cheer routine and second place for their overall small traditional sideline.



VAIL
Unified School District

**"Where Education is
a Community Effort"**



vailschooldistrict.org





VUSD

KINDERGARTEN

roundups

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19

- Acacia Elementary School
- Cottonwood Elementary School
- Esmond Station K8
- Mesquite Elementary School
- Ocotillo Ridge Elementary School
- Saguaro Creek K8
- Senita Valley Elementary School
- Vail Academy & HS

→ **5:00 pm**

- Copper Ridge Elementary School
- Desert Willow Elementary School
- Sycamore Elementary School

→ **5:30 pm**

VAIL
Unified School District

**"Where Education is
a Community Effort"**



vailschooldistrict.org



Defending Your Home from Subterranean Termites

Last month, we explored the destructiveness of subterranean termites and the signs to watch for. This month, we're focusing on treatment options that protect your home and investment.

Liquid Perimeter Treatments

This method creates a continuous treated barrier in the soil around your home. Termites that try to pass through are eliminated, while others carry the product back to the colony. It provides:

- Immediate protection against active infestations
- Proven results for stopping existing damage

Sentricon® Termite Baiting Systems

Instead of a barrier, Sentricon® stations with bait are placed in the ground around your home. Termites consume the bait, share

it with the colony, and the active ingredient disrupts growth and reproduction. Benefits include:

- Environmentally friendly and targeted
- Continuous monitoring by professionals
- Colony elimination at the source

Both treatments are highly effective in Southern Arizona. The best choice depends on your home's construction, termite activity, and preferences. Annual inspections by a licensed professional are the key to long-term protection.

For more information or to schedule a free inspection, visit: **BillsHomeService.com** or call **520-346-4564**.





\$25 OFF*
Initial Pest Control Service
*Must present this ad. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 09/30/2025. VV-092025

\$50 OFF*
Initial Weed Control Service
*Must present this ad. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 09/30/2025. VV-092025

\$50 OFF*
Liquid Termite Treatment w/ 1-Year Contract
*Must present this ad. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 09/30/2025. VV-092025

\$100 OFF*
Sentricon System Installation
*Must present this ad. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 09/30/2025. VV-092025

Not So Itsy Bitsy?

Big or small, we're ready for any kind of pest. Ask us about termites, weed control, and more!



(520) 346-4564
billshomeservice.com

Family-Owned. Community Trusted. Since 1964.

Pest Control • Weed Control • Termite Service • Home Inspection



MOUNTAIN VIEW
ANIMAL CLINIC & PET HOTEL

Wellness & Senior Exams
Urgent Care Radiographs Surgery / Dentistry
Laser Therapy Pet Boarding

Where your pets are family

Now offering pet boarding

(520) 762-0455
13750 E. Success Dr. Vail, AZ 85641
thevailvet.com





Trail Boss®
Outfitters
GUNS & GEAR

13180 Colossal Cave Rd #120
Vail, AZ 85641

NO CITY SALES TAX

WE DO SPECIAL ORDERS AT A GREAT PRICE!

Western Hospitality with Friendly Prices

520-274-7528
trailbossoutfitters.com



Events

Until October 31, the Art Wall at the Arizona Senior Academy* will present photographs from world travels by Academy Village resident James Gillock. The Art Wall, located in the ASA Building lobby, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and during ASA events.

Wednesday, October 1, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Shaun Phillips, CEO, and Julia Streange, Vice President, External Affairs, Tucson Medical Center Rincon. They will speak about the development and first year of the newest southeast Tucson area hospital.

Thursday, October 2, 7 p.m. (and Every Thurs.)

Vail Al-Anon Family Group Meeting at St. Rita in the Desert Church, 13260 E. Colossal Cave Rd. A fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who come together for mutual help. Families, friends and observers are welcome. al-anon.org.

Sunday, October 5, 3 p.m.

ASA* Concert: The Tucson Guitar Society Orchestra performs music of Latin America for guitar orchestra plus guitar solos, duos and trios. Directed by U of A faculty artist Jose Luis Puerta.

Monday, October 6, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by John Cameron, Ph.D., former professional actor, director and playwright, Professor Emeritus of Theater at the University of Iowa, "Acting Technique for Stage and Film in the United States: 1850." He will explore the dynamic shift in theory and execution that has come to define modern representational acting in film and television in the U.S.

Wednesday, October 8, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Thursday, October 9, 4 p.m.

ASA* Concert: The authentic South American folk ensemble El Surco play and sing traditional folk songs of Argentina, Colombia and surrounding regions. Featuring U of A ethnomusicologist Jennie Gubner (violin), Argentinian guitarist Maxi Larrea, and Chilean guitarist/charango player Andres Pantoja.

Saturday, October 11, 1-5 p.m.

Chili Cook-Off at 3 p.m. FREE Family Fall Festival & Community Chili Cook-Off!!! New Beginnings Community Church, 16540 S. Houghton Rd. Limit of 20 spots available for Chili Cook-off. To reserve your spot, email coronanbcc@yahoo.com. Donations accepted. Cash or Zelle* (*Zelle info is for Corona De Tucson Baptist Church - cdtbchurch28@gmail.com)

Monday, October 13, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Michael Brescia, Ph.D., U of A Professor of History and Curator of Ethnohistory, Arizona State Museum, "Over There, Everything is Going to be Different: Toward a Historical Understanding of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands." Dr. Brescia examines the interconnected histories of the United States and Mexico across the vast Borderlands.

Tuesday, October 14, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams and U of A faculty artist, pianist Daniel Linder, perform songs of English and American composers. Wednesday, October 15, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture by Benjamin Jens, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Practice, U of A Dept. of Russian & Slavic Studies, "Beyond Dracula: Unearthing the Origins of the Balkan Vampire." Dr. Jens will explore the Balkan origins of the vampire myth and trace its rise from village folklore to Victorian London and beyond

Friday, October 17, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Don Armstrong & the Whiskeypalians return with Tucson folk legend Don Armstrong (vocals, banjo, guitar), Liz Cerepanya (vocals) and Petie Ronstadt (vocals, guitar, stomp box).

Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Del Webb Artisan Faire. Original handmade products, made in the USA. 10264 Blendu Way, Vail. Free.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

and Sunday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fall Arts & Crafts Boutique. Vendors, bake sale, quilts, jewelry, hugh raffle and food court. Corpus Christy Catholic Church, 300 N Tanque Verde Loop Rd.

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m.-1p.m.

Spooktacular Safety Fair, 10350 E. Drexel Rd TMC Rincon Health Campus. Free hotdogs, chips and drinks, music, inflatables, free booster seats, and free bike helmets.

Monday, October 20, 2:30 p.m.

ASA*: Two lectures by Claire Muss-er, Executive Director of the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project, "Carnivores Among Us: Lessons from Bears, Coyotes, and Bobcats." Second lecture 3:45 p.m.: "Wolves on the Edge: Conflict, Recovery, and the Path to Co-Thriving."

Friday, October 24, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Award-winning and dynamic acoustic duo Ryanhood return with lead guitarist Ryan David Green and primary lyricist Cameron Hood to introduce their new album and play favorites from past albums.

Monday, October 27, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Deborah Rob-in, Ed.D. Art History Instructor, Art Institute of Phoenix and Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, "Graffiti: The Fascinating History of Illicit Art from Cave Walls to City Streets, Part 1." The speaker will address the difference between graffiti and street art and show many varieties of contemporary graffiti.

Wednesday, October 29, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Deborah Rob-in, Ed.D., Art History Instructor, Art Institute of Phoenix and Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art "Graffiti: The Fascinating History of Illicit Art from Cave Walls to City Streets, Part 2." Dr. Robin will illustrate the newest forms of street art and review the debates around where vandalism ends and art begins.

Friday, October 31, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Flamenco Fusion Quartet Aire debuts at the ASA to play Flamenco, Rumba and Latin styles, featuring Nathaniel Burnside (guitar), Nick Coventry (violin), Adam Gay (upright bass) and Michael Solomon (cajon).

Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A Pet Expo will be held at the Del

Webb community at 10264 S Blendu Way. Free to vendors and neighbors for a fun morning with your pets and family from 9 to 1. If you are interested in being a vendor, contact us at dwrld.ngray@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 8, 3-4 p.m.

The Vail Chorale presents their Fall Concert "Just for the Fun of It!" with an eclectic mix of fun songs, some quirky, some amusing, some you may never have heard, all engaging the audience with the enthusiasm and camaraderie of choral harmony! Location: Del Webb Rancho del Lago Community Center, 10264 S. Blendu Way, Vail AZ 85641. Free admission, donations gratefully accepted. More info at thevailchorale.org or email thevailchorale@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 9, 3 p.m.

ASA* Concert: The Vail Chorale presents the 2nd performance of their Fall Concert "Just for the Fun of It!" with an eclectic mix of fun songs, some quirky, some amusing, some you may never have heard, all engaging the audience with the enthusiasm and camaraderie of choral harmony!

Sunday, November 23, 2:00 pm

Uniting the Community Through Music at Sahuarita School Auditorium, Sahuarita Blvd., Sahuarita, AZ. \$25 for adults; reduced and free pricing for students and children. Questions, contact: Mike Finkelstein, (520)980-0812, mfinkel2@cox.net - Sponsored by: Beth Shalom Temple Center, Green Valley

**ASA. 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: arizonaseni-
oracademy.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-
preservationsociety@gmail.com>.*

If you have an event to submit, please email to: events@thevailvoice.com

Del Webb at Rancho del Lago 14th Annual Artisan Faire

On October 18th the Lodge and outside event lawn at the Del Webb community in Vail will be transformed into a gallery of arts and crafts, showcasing the original creations of dozens of local artisans.

The six-hour "Open to the Public" festival (8:00 AM to 2:00 pm) will feature a wide variety of art to enjoy, while offering a head start to your holiday shopping, and perhaps an opportunity to find the perfect treasure for your own home. All community gates will be open for the event, and in addition to featuring the unique artworks from a variety of local talent, plenty of free parking and invited food trucks will be available for visitors.

This is the 14th year that this public celebration has been presented, and the abundance of creative talent on hand offers an enjoyable day for all who attend.

(Sorry, dogs are not permitted at this event.) The organizers invited three of the artists, randomly chosen, to share their stories as a sampling of the kinds of creations that will be available to enjoy or purchase.

Mary Leeper Conley: Gourd Artist. Custom designed, hand-selected, burned, carved and individually painted, often reflecting Native American themes.

David Stitt: Glass Art Creations. Fused glass, Christmas Ornaments, Slumped Bottles, Glass Coasters and more.

Cheryl Applegate: Hand-made Gnomes of all kinds. Turning recycled materials into charming displays of colorful characters.

There is still room for additional vendors if you get your application in by October 11.

For more information, email: delwebbcraftfair@yahoo.com



Vail's Diamond in the Rough: Rocking K Market & Restaurant

The Rocking K Market isn't just a business; it's proof that in the right hands, a simple idea—good food, cold drinks, and everything you didn't know you needed—can become the beating heart of a community, a vision by the entrepreneurs, Skyler Busboom and Harold Busboom.

Eight years. That's how long I've been driving these dusty back roads around Vail, watching new communities spring up like desert wildflowers after rain, yet still having to trek five to ten miles into Tucson to buy a loaf of bread.

It's Thursday at 5 PM, and I need milk and one of those impossible-to-find garage door opener batteries—the flat ones that usually require a pilgrimage to Rita Ranch. As my pickup rolls into the parking lot at 12660 E. Old Spanish Trail, the Arizona sun paints everything in copper and gold, and I hear something that stops me cold: karaoke echoing from a courtyard stage.

Karaoke? Out here?

I take the handicap ramp, leaving the hitching post for any cowboys who might actually ride up on horseback (this is Vail, after all). The weathered wooden building looks like it grew from the high desert itself, all earth tones and character earned through seasons of monsoons and scorching summers.

The door announces my arrival with a friendly creak, and suddenly I understand what my friend Jake meant when he said, "It's like that old TV show—everybody knows your name." Behind the counter, a young woman serves triple duty as bartender, hostess, and clerk, asking how she can help with the kind of genuine smile that's become extinct in most retail establishments.

"I need some milk," I say, then pause, taking in the impossibility of what I'm seeing. "And... can I see a menu?"

"Want to sit at the bar or a table?"

I point to a barstool where I can watch the karaoke singers through the window, the Rincon Mountains still showing off their sunset behind the outdoor stage. "This is perfect."

But first, I need to explore. What I discovered defies every assumption about rural commerce: shelves stocked with craft beer next to motor oil, gourmet hot sauces beside basic automotive supplies, birthday cards sharing space with locally-sourced honey. It's a hardware store, auto parts shop, grocery market, and restaurant all rolled into one impossibly functional whole.

And there, like a small miracle, sits exactly the garage door battery I need.

Back at the bar, I settle onto my stool and marvel at the seven dining tables draped in real cloth—not paper, but actual fabric—each set with genuine silverware tucked into cloth napkins. To my left, a rancher in a pearl-snap shirt debates local IPAs with a hiking-booted woman sipping Chardonnay. Construction workers grab sandwiches and coffee, their easy banter mixing with the voices from the karaoke stage.

**"Rocking K Market"
continued on page 30**

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654





Serving Rita Ranch and Southeast Tucson for over 15 years!

Quality Care, Personalized Attention, Full-Service Pet Clinic

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- CO2 Laser Surgery
- Digital Radiology
- Internal Medicine
- Dentistry
- Cold Laser Therapy
- Microchipping
- Puppy & Kitten Packages

Large, private parking lot for your pet's safety

Heather Redmon, DVM

www.maderavet.com

574-3700

7681 S. Houghton Road

Excellent Care for Excellent Pets!



Care for pediatric patients at our Old Vail Middle School location.

UHC at Old Vail Middle School
13299 E. Colossal Cave Road Vail, AZ 85641



Learn more about us: uchcaz.org



Keeping homes termite-free since 1938

\$100 Off
Termite Control
Call Now!
Receive a FREE inspection and this great offer.
* Applicable to new annual service agreement.



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO AND DEALS



TRULY NOLEN
PEST CONTROL
TERMITES

800 • GO • TRULY

C L a S \$ I f i e D s

BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CLEANING SERVICES

2 Guys & A Sponge - Window Cleaning: Interior Exterior Window Cleaning. Screens, Tracks, Mirrors. Licensed, Insured. Prices that won't leave a streak! Ask about our Specials! Tyler 520-260-6360.

Let Maid 4 U Do Your Dirty Work. Residential Cleaning. Serving Vail and Tucson for over 30 years. Fully insured, bonded and provide workman's compensation. Mention this ad and receive \$10 off first cleaning. Call Kris 520-647-0929 (Vail). Call Kim 520-336-7509 (Tucson)

Two Rivers Maid Service: 45 years of uncompromising quality and service. For all your residential cleaning needs. We offer weekly, bi-weekly, monthly and move-outs. Experience the difference because our standards are above the rest. For your free estimates. Call 520-237-6025

HANDYMAN

Beck's Handyworks - 20 yrs. Experience. New & old construction. Electrical, Plumbing, Drywall & more. Reasonable, Reliable, Excellent references. Work guaranteed. Senior & Military discounts. Call Joe 520-449-9587.

Handyman No job too small. Painting exterior and interior, roofs, stucco, sheet rock, doors, woodwork, wooden shelves, hauling. Call Mike at 520-262-5258

Loren's Handyman and Painting Services. Painting, Drywall repair, tile setting, wood laminate floor install, minor bathroom

remodel, minor plumbing repairs, misc. house repairs. Call or text: 520-912-5055

Momma's Handyman You tried the rest now try the best! Block wall repair, tree /bush/weed trimming, painting, deck building, cement/tile work, electrical/rock landscaping. 25 years exp. Reasonable rates! Call 520-482-7375

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Civano Exercise Studio Stretch+Strength, Pilates & Aerobics weekday classes (in-studio & Zoom). New Yoga classes (weekday, evening & weekend). See www.tucsonstretch.com, contact Susan 520-270-4440 or tucsonstretch2@gmail.com. In Civano Center, 10501 E.Seven Generations #108.

My Menopause Doctor- As a Naturopathic Physician, specializing in Women's medicine, Perimenopause, Menopause, and beyond! 100% Telemedicine, schedule your appointment with Dr. Alicia Miller, ND at www.mymenopausedoctor.com

Protect your family from future costs. I make final expense insurance easy and affordable. No pressure, just honest help. Call/text Steven at 520-734-2711 or email stevenslifeinsurance@gmail.com for a free quote!

HOME SERVICES

Tucson Grill Cleaning: for professional BBQ grill cleaning/skilled repairs/pack-rat solutions & seamless installations. Local/award-winning/BBB accredited & 10+ years strong. Book online for \$10 off any service @ TucsonGrillCleaning.com, or call 520-245-7967 For A Clean Grill Of Health. Residential/commercial.

Bender Information Technology Services, LLC - Computer need a fix? Better call B.I.T.S. - Bender I.T. Services. Local, friendly, and reliable. Exceptional residential and small business I.T. services. In-home or remote, 24/7. www.benderITServices.com Call 520-200-7415

ROOMATE WANTED

Christian middle aged woman looking to work / live in for a family in exchange room and board, have small dog. Can do nanny work, cook and clean or I can cook / clean for elderly. Thank you, Jackie. 520-246-6153

STORAGE

Industrial Rental Yards East - Fenced, Gated. Onsite Security Locking Metal Shipping Containers monthly, quarterly, yearly leases Utilities, Facilities Maintained 520-271-1854 6775 East Littletown Rd - littletownenterprises@aol.com.

Weather King of Sahuarita Your local one-stop shop for Weather King Portable Buildings and storage solution including utility sheds, cabins, garages and lofted barns. Come see why these are truly the "Best Built Sheds in the Business". 16115 S Three Wells Ct. 520-730-4086.

YARD WORK

Jay's landscaping weeds, trimming, yard maintenance, Vail area 520-445-2507

Irrigation Repair Specialists Sprinkler & Drip Repair, Leak Detection, System Check-Ups, Troubleshooting and Wiring Issues, Low Pressure Problems, Valves, Heads, Timers. Call Quality Service 520-306-2900.

Landscaping by J & E - Quality landscaping at an affordable price. Best "contract free" maintenance plans starting at \$60 per month. Free estimates! Referrals available! Call today! 520-250-9913 Insured.

Wild Terrain Landscaping: Experienced, Reliable and Affordable. Weeding, cleaning, trimming, gravel. Junk removal/hauling, irrigation installs & service, pre and post emergent spray...and more! Call Eduardo: 520-396-8449. Free Estimates!

Classified Ad Rates: \$50 for up to 30 words. \$1 additional for each word thereafter. Business Name will be **Bolded**. Additional **Bolding** (\$1 per word) is now available. No ALL CAPS or graphics, please. Ad copy is due by the 10th of the month for publication the following month. To place a classified ad, send an email to: classifieds@TheVailVoice.com.

Your 1/8 Page Ad Here.

Reach Your Audience.

Contact Sales:
Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654



thevailvoice.com



CHAIRMAN, NATURAL RESOURCES
ENERGY & WATER
VICE CHAIRMAN, RULES
LAND, AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

GAIL GRIFFIN
MEMBER, DISTRICT 19

ARIZONA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1700 W. WASHINGTON STREET, STE. H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844

CAPITOL: (602) 926-5895
TOLL FREE: 1(800) 352-8404
ggriffin@azleg.gov



September, 2025 - Time to color!

Welcome
FALL



© Lisa Kindle, 2025

"Rocking K Market" continued from page 26

"The place was packed on Wednesday for happy hour," the bartender mentions. "And once a month, the hot rod clubs from Tucson cruise out here.

"That's when Skyler Busboom walks in—the twenty-six-year-old owner, the visionary, the person who looked at this stretch of Old Spanish Trail six years ago and saw something the rest of us missed: potential.

"How did you come up with this?" I ask during a quiet moment.

His answer is elegantly simple: he and his father recognized what was missing and chose to create it. Not just a market or a restaurant, but a gathering place where scattered rural neighbors could find both garage door batteries and a true sense of community.

"We're growing," he says, eyes bright with plans. "Live music,



local artists, wine tastings—partnering with everything that makes this area special. It is my dream shaped by those seeding conversations with my father."

Why You Need to Experience This Place



The Rocking K Market shouldn't work. A combination grocery-hard-ware-auto supply store with a full restaurant and bar, complete with karaoke nights and hot rod meet-ups? It sounds like someone's fever dream of rural entrepreneurship.

But it works because Skyler understood something profound: in scattered communities like ours, people don't just need products—they need a place to connect. They need a place to grab milk and a battery, and then they'll stay for dinner, accidentally making friends with their neighbor three miles down the road.

No reservations needed. Just show up with whatever you're missing—whether it's groceries, fresh baked goods, fish, steak, readers (yes, readers), car supplies, or human connection—and discover that sometimes the best ideas are the ones that shouldn't exist but absolutely must.

Rocking K Market: 12660 E. Old Spanish Trail Rd., Vail, AZ 85747. Come for what you need. Stay for what you didn't know you were looking for.

By Dennis Ondrejka



Heat Optimist Club Celebrates 30 Years of Serving Kids

The Heat Optimist Club is a civic organization focusing on children primarily in the Vail School District. The club just celebrated its 30th anniversary, chartering on May 23, 1995, with 15 members. The club consisted mostly of Hughes Missile Systems employees with a few other community members. That is how it got its name, HEAT – Hughes Employee Association Tucson. The club was sponsored by the Pueblo Optimist Club which at that time had been around for nearly 30 years. The club formed and continued to grow, adding an equal number of Vail School District employees including teachers, principals, district leadership, and even including the superintendent of the district. There are still three members who were charter members of the club, Jim Parrotte, Marty Jones, and Jim Pekny.

Over 30 years, the club has supported youth through initiatives such as oratorical and essay contests, bicycle safety events, sewing and donating children's pillow-

cases to local hospitals, holiday shopping programs for children in need, leadership seminar sponsorships, and more. The club has sponsored many Junior Optimist Clubs over the years and currently is sponsoring two Junior Optimist Clubs: The Dragon Leadership Program JOI Club and the Boxer Bots JOI Club.

Today the club has 27 members and continues its mission of Bringing Out the Best in Kids. Charter member Jim Pekny had this to say, "I never imagined when I joined the club I would still be in the club and working on local projects for the children 30 years later. I guess it just shows that when you have a noble cause like working with the youth in your neighborhood it's worth your time and effort to stick with it."

If you would like to know more about the Heat Optimist Club and would like to possibly get involved, please contact us through our website at: heatoptimistclub.org. We meet the third Thursday at 6:00 pm at the Dennys in Rita Ranch.

By Jim Pekny
President Heat Optimist Club



Newest Self Storage Facility in Rincon Valley

Rincon Valley Super Storage
14150 E. Old Spanish Trail Rd.
Vail, AZ 85641 | (520) 861-3222



www.rinconvalleystorage.com

AZ Lantanas Landscaping (520) 288-1271

- Yard Maintenance
- Tree Trimming
- Initial and Monthly Service
- Rock Installation
- Weed Control
- 10% Military & Veterans Discount and Much More.....

Free Estimates!!!

Owner: Juan Gastelum

A Rancho del Lago Water Story: Quilts, Barbed Wire, Cattle, Squatters, and a "Foreman's" Real Job

Owners of the larger ranches near Vail often hired Bee Adkins, the Rancho del Lago Foreman, to hunt predators killing their cattle. In November of 1936, Bee and George Davis were laying traps on the La Casa Blanca ranch owned by J. Rukin Jelks. Born in 1903 in Texas, Bee was one of nine children. When he was 14, he was cast out on his own because there was not enough food to go around at home.

Young Bee found work on a ranch for \$15.00 a month. He was hazed mercilessly by the other cowhands because of two large moles on his left cheek. As a way to deal with the anger built up inside of him, he began to practice with his carbine and develop his marksmanship. Bee's hunting dogs provided him with companionship and affection he couldn't find with people—his dogs didn't care about his disfiguring moles. As Bee's skills increased, his value to ranchers did as well. He was paid \$2.50 or more for each predator he killed. He often earned as much as \$50 a month in addition to his \$15 salary.

With his hunting and tracking skills he was able to earn a living. Bee met a young woman named Viola. They fell in love, married, and soon a daughter was born, then another. Bee needed more steady work. He heard about a ranch, recently acquired, by a wealthy easterner just southeast of Tucson. The easterner, Cleaveland Putnam, had named his new property Rancho del Lago. He hadn't spent good money and tak-



Bee Dee Adkins with four hunting dogs. Adkins Collection, Vail Preservation Society

en his time to sue the property's previous owner, Alma Tattersfield, to ensure that the water rights that linked his newly acquired and named Rancho del Lago property were securely, legally, linked to the property.

It was the middle of the Great Depression and hard times weren't hard to find. Mattie Adkins and her three sons found themselves among the tempest tossed, and in desperate need of water for their cattle. The many man-made lakes of Rancho del Lago, fed by the captured waters of Cienega Creek, seemed like salvation. They built a shack and tried to make the best of a terrible situation. But their respite wouldn't last long.

In his own words, Putnam was "plagued by a family of squatters stealing his water." When Putnam discovered the Adkins family he had his wranglers string up barbed wire around the lakes. Soon after, the Adkins boys cut that barbed wire and watered their cattle at the pond. Putnam was furious and he would put a stop to it one way or another!

To his credit, Putnam tried diplomacy first. He met with Mattie Adkins and offered access to

water twice a week for a few hours in exchange for quilting, sewing, and other housekeeping services. A receipt for \$6.00 for "quilting two quilts at \$3.00 each" survives to corroborate the story shared by Bee's daughter Gladys. Said amount for the services was to "be applied on rent..." Mattie had little choice but to accept but in truth, Putnam's offer of water twice a week was not sufficient to support either her family or their few head of cattle. Even if they could have made it work on so little, tensions continued to mount.

Putnam hired Bee Adkins, father of Gladys and no relation to the squatters, as a 'Ranch Foreman' to solve his 'problem'. Bee told Mr. Putnam that he wanted to talk to the squatters to determine if his story "squared up." Bee was met by three young men with crossed arms and a shotgun as he approached the Adkin's shack.

Bee gave an ominous warning and restrung the barbed wire fence. Just days later, while in Tucson, he received word the wire had been cut and the squatter's cattle were drinking from the pond on days and at times not listed in the agreement. Bee hurried back to Vail, along the way he decided

that confronting the young men on the trail back to their shack when they weren't on alert would be best.

The ambush worked as planned. Caught unaware, the "Rancho del Lago Foreman" got the drop on the Adkins boys. Lined up in his sites, Bee assured the Adkins boys that if they didn't drop their weapons he would not hesitate to shoot. The Foreman's reputation was known across the Southwest and Northern Mexico — he was a deadly hunter for animals on both four legs and two. The clatter of dropped weapons followed and the family packed up and moved on. The "Foreman's" task was accomplished. It was time for him and his family to move on. The school year wasn't quite over, but his young daughters Alpha, Gladys, and Vina said goodbye to their friends and teachers, Miss Esta and Lottie Trotter, and moved into Tucson where her father had lined up more work as a "Foreman."



Gladys and Vina Adkins on the bank of Cienega Creek. Adkins Collection, Vail Preservation Society

Stories surround us, layers of history are in everyday places. This one was shared by Gladys, one of Bee's young daughters. She had fond memories of attending school in Vail, but no delusions about her father, or the value of water.

Was it here, at one of the last remaining ponds of Rancho del Lago, that the stand-off over water and barbed wire unfolded? Which

"Vail Preservation Society"
continued on page 33

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!

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

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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



MARSHALL
FOUNDATION

Thank You

Our district's oldest high school, Cienega High School, has long stood as a cornerstone of educational excellence in the Vail School District. Established a century ago, the school has served generations of students with a strong commitment to academic achievement and personal growth. Its rich history is reflected in its longstanding traditions and deep community connections that continue to serve over 1800 students each year.

hensive library refresh at Cienega. This funding will allow the school to update the look and feel of the Ed Center, and create more engaging and flexible learning spaces for students. The revitalized library aims to become a vibrant hub for research, collaboration, and creativity—ensuring that Cienega High School continues to evolve while honoring its legacy.

Thank you Marshall Foundation for your generosity!

In a recent milestone, Vail School District Foundation was awarded a generous grant from the Marshall Foundation to support a compre-



Happy Halloween

October 31, 2025

SUN TAP

WATER SYSTEMS

"Family Owned and Operated Since 1984"

520-573-1115

Call Now for a Free in Home Estimate

Are you tired of -

- Buying Bottled Water?
- Dry Hair & Skin?
- Hard Water Deposits?

We offer Affordable -

- Reverse Osmosis Systems
- Water Softening Systems
- Water Conditioning Systems

www.SunTapWater.com

ROC #305182

"Vail Preservation Society"
continued from page 31

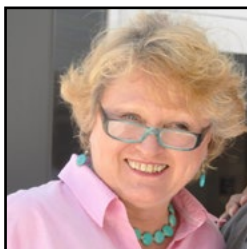
dusty trail still remembers the clatter of firearms as they struck the earth? And we must not forget: the waters of Cienega Creek that pool into Rancho del Lago are not meant for the fish who never sought them, or for the homeowners who mistook the ponds as permanent features of their home, nor even for the wildlife they loved to watch along the banks. This water is claimed and controlled—a commodity bound to Rancho del Lago.

Preservation@Work

Vail Preservation Society is proud to announce that we are the recipient of a National Trust for Historic Preservation Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund to support the Mud Plaster With a Story at the 1908 Old Vail Post Office. The \$15,000. grant, which Vail Preservation Society will match, will fund the restoration of the interior mud plaster on the adobe walls, a

workshop designed to encourage the next generation of preservation practitioners to learn this vanishing skill, and a film to document the process. This grant brings us closer to completing the rehabilitation of the only Territorial Era building in Vail and Corona de Tucson. Donations can be made on the VPS website vailpreservationsociety.org that will help us to raise the matching \$15,000. funds. Together we will complete the work and open the 1908 Old Vail Post Office as the Vail Welcome & Heritage Center in time for the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

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.



REAL

Farmers.
Food.
Artisans.

Get REAL at Heirloom.



Organic Produce • Farm Fresh Eggs
 Local Beef & Pork • Baked Goods
 Coffee & Tea • Honey • Soaps & Lotions
 Prepared Foods • Artisan Goods

HEIRLOOM

FARMERS MARKETS

AZ FARMERS Backyard Green House, Desert Pearl Mushrooms,
 Green Heart Farms & Larry's Veggies

SATURDAYS 8am - 12pm

Rincon Valley Farmers & Artisans Market
 12500 East Old Spanish Trail, Vail, AZ
 ☎ 520.882.2157 • HEIRLOOMFM.ORG







DUCK PRESS

MEDIA SOLUTIONS




DUCKPRESS.COM
4633 E BROADWAY BLVD.

WE CAN PRINT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

AND WE'RE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER


MENUS


BANNERS
INDOOR / OUTDOOR


A-FRAMES


WALLPAPER
STOREFRONT VINYL


FLAGS


FLYERS AND TRIFOLDS


BUILDING PLANS


BUSINESS CARDS


REAL ESTATE SIGNS


AND MUCH MORE

LOCATED AT BROADWAY & SWAN AND WE CAN DELIVER

ASK FOR **DOMINICK**, A VAIL RESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER AT DUCK PRESS MEDIA.
 DIAL 520.795.1700 EXT. 7116 OR EMAIL DOMINICK@DUCKPRESS.COM.





Call for Golfers and Sponsors to Support Resources Vail Food Bank on October 25th

Greater Vail Community Resources announces the 2025 Resources Golf Challenge to be held on Saturday, October 25th at the Del Lago Golf Course in Vail with an 8:00 am shotgun start. "ReSources" is the local 501(c)3 that operates both the Resources Vail Food Bank and the Depot Thrift Store, and it's calling golfers of all skill levels as well as community-minded businesses and organizations to support the Vail Food Bank as golfers or sponsors. Net proceeds



2024 Closest to Pin winner, Bob Snodgrass, is flanked by Heather Beck of TMC Rincon and Callie Tippet, Executive Director of Greater Vail Community Resources

from this tournament fund the Resources Vail Food Bank and its programs, which primarily serve residents with emergency food, "Meals to Grow" weekend nutrition for area school children, and meals for the homebound. Online registration and payment is easy at www.resourcesvail.org

Registration fees are \$125 per golfer, or \$475 per foursome (a savings of \$25), and include greens fees, cart, range balls and the awards lunch on the patio. This year, golfers can choose from a variety of bundled raffle and muligan tickets which are available for purchase online, saving time at check-in, or at the event.

Stepping up again in 2025 as the tournament's Premier Sponsor, Vulcan Materials Company invites golf foursomes to register in the "Open" or "First Responders" division (requiring at least two golfers to be active or retired first responders.) And this could be the year that someone goes home with a new Mercedes Benz thanks to Mercedes Benz of Tucson which is sponsoring another hole-in-one contest at the #2 par 3 hole. Thanks go to the dealership's general manager, John Hornbeck, for making this exciting contest possible again in 2025.

Sponsorships are the financial life blood of a successful golf tournament, and we hope that area businesses and corporate neighbors will turn out in force to make this year's event the best ever. But sponsorships are not limited to for-profit companies—any organization or individual can register as a sponsor for as little as \$200. Many sponsorship levels are available, and each has a different set of corresponding entitlements. Our deep thanks go to Vulcan Materials Company and Mercedes Benz of Tucson for their commitment to serving nonprofits like Resources. These companies, and all tournament sponsors, deserve recognition and patronage from our community for their civic generosity.

This event is the number one annual fundraiser for Greater Vail Community Resources, which is powered largely by greathearted volunteers who live the motto of "ReSources"

continued on page 36

Support ReSources Vail Food Bank

as a Golfer or a Sponsor at the

GREATER VAIL COMMUNITY



Golf Challenge

Premier Sponsor



Hole-in-One Sponsor



Mercedes-Benz of Tucson

A New Mercedes Benz
*actual prize vehicle not shown

Awards Lunch, Prizes, Raffles

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Del Lago Golf Course

14155 E. Via Rancho del Lago

Vail, AZ 85641

8:00 AM shotgun start

Register as a player or as a sponsor for the ReSources 2025 Golf Challenge online:

www.resourcesvail.org

(follow the prompts to golf registration)



Register and pay for a foursome OR register and pay as an individual, listing the players in your foursome.

Questions or need assistance?

Contact: Shane Stamback

shanestamback@resourcesvail.org



Huge Sale

you don't want to miss!

35th Annual
Desert Skies United Methodist Church
Flea Market
All kinds of great stuff!
Thursday & Friday
Nov. 7th & 8th, 7am until 5pm
Saturday, Nov. 9th, 7am until noon

For more information

Church office 749-0521 • 3255 N Houghton Rd.

On behalf of over 75 faith leaders in Southern Arizona representing a spectrum of Christian traditions, we write with an urgent call to Christians to speak out for the way of Jesus and against devastation being done to our neighbors and planet. As faith leaders, we bear witness daily to the teaching of Jesus Christ—a message grounded in love and compassion that provides wisdom for humans seeking to live in respectful relationship with God's creation and one another.

Clergy have too often been complicit or silent in times of crisis. We are negligent if we remain so now. We do not speak for all Christians, nor do we represent everyone in our faith communities. We preach, lead and act in diverse ways, yet we have found a collective voice and are compelled now to speak in opposition to the harmful policies and actions we are witnessing in our nation, including by the President of the United States, the

thevailvoice.com

Administration, elected officials, judges, and the public, including people identifying as Christian.

Jesus' way of love leads us to see worth, dignity, and opportunity in all. Jesus repaired divisions, welcomed outsiders, and retained traditions that guide how we live together. Jesus gathered people to address injustices and harm, explicitly lifting up the poor and vulnerable, prioritizing compassion and empathy. Our nation's leaders have not often prioritized those on the margins. Since Inauguration Day of this year, we have witnessed a dizzying number of harmful policies, practices, and rhetoric. Although deceptively clothed in Christian language and symbolism, these actions invert Jesus' ministry and teachings.

We commit to a message of hope in response to the following specific actions of this current administration. These actions are daily assaults against God's

beloved creation, including human decency, and especially including persons on the margins and most vulnerable. God's way of freedom, justice, and love is a path forward for all people. Instead of division, we can work together to help workers, families, and communities thrive. Instead of scarcity, we can work together to encourage growth and flourishing for people and the planet.

"For God so loved the whole world" describes God's dream for humanity, in contrast to the scapegoating, fear and intimidation that characterize this administration. Therefore, we denounce the following:

- people being taken, imprisoned, and deported without due process
- the criminalization of workers and children without reason
- immigration raids that bring daily fear to families and communities.

"God created the world and called it good" describes God's dream for creation. Therefore, we denounce the following:

- ecological irresponsibility that imperils God's Earth and all who inhabit it.
- the use of retaliation and name-calling to suppress the freedom of expression among individuals and institutions in this country
- the inherent racism in efforts to ban books, end diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and distort the truthful teaching of our nation's history.
- the bullying and discriminatory practices aimed at LGBTQ individuals, especially children.

"For the least of these" is Jesus' vision of a world where people are free to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and respect the humanity of those imprisoned (Matthew 25:31-46). Therefore, we denounce the following and more:

- cutting Medicaid and health insurance, essential to the wellbeing of millions of people;
- closing our nation's borders to people seeking haven from genuine harm;
- sweeping travel and visa bans that categorize people as potential threats;
- the efforts to unconstitutionally withhold citizenship from children born in this country;
- gutting of USAID and other international humanitarian assistance; which has already resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children worldwide;
- the withholding of billions of dollars of federal funds to educational institutions which are essential for vital research.

We call ourselves to account and invite others into practices of bold mercy, justice, and compassion. With our words and actions, we will work for the common good of Earth and its inhabitants. We call on our nation's leaders and community members of all faith traditions and life experiences to receive the wisdom of God's sacred teaching.

We turn toward one another seeking goodness, not greatness.

Statement and full list of signers at www.bearwitnessnow.org/home

By Rev. Dr. Brooke Wilkerson
 Senior Pastor, Desert Skies United Methodist Church





Elevate Your Everyday

– Luxury Nails by a Licensed Pro

Experience salon-level artistry in the comfort of your home—or step into my serene private studio in Vail/Tucson. I'm Kharemah Wells, a licensed nail technician dedicated to clean, health-focused beauty that feels as good

You deserve nails that mirror your confidence and care for your well-being. Let's make it effortless

Because you deserve beautiful nails—done right

Nails By Kharemah

Licensed Nail Technician
Home based / Mobile services

IG: [mrs.ks_nail](#)
(520) 907-3130



Auto Repair With Heart

OOROO Auto is proud to join the Vail community! Locally owned and operated, OOROO provides expert car repair and maintenance

For a limited time: Take \$25 or 10% off your next service.

(520) 394-8394 | Monday-Friday: 7:30am-5:30pm
10508 E Old Vail Rd (next to Hotrods)



AZ DAILY STAR
READERS FAVORITE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA TORCH AWARD
ETHICS & CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE

"ReSources"
continued from page 34

"neighbors helping neighbors." If you agree with them and support the Resources mission, please consider joining the fun on October 25th as a golfer, sponsor or volunteer. Questions? Contact Shane Stamback (shanestamback@resourcesvail.org) or Susan Summers (susansummers@resourcesvail.org)

Shane Stamback serves on the board of directors for Greater Vail Community Resources and is the 2025 Resources Golf Challenge Committee Chair.



Word Search

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

ANT MIMIC	FILMY DOME	JOHNSON JUMPER	SPITTING
ARROWHEAD	FLOWER	JUMPING	STEALTHY GROUND
BANDED GARDEN	GHOST	LADYBIRD MIMIC	STRIPED LYNX
BIRD DROPPING	GIANT HOUSE	NURSERY WEB	TENT WEB
BOLAS	GOLDENROD CRAB	ORBWEAVER	TURRET
BOLD JUMPER	GRAY CROSS	PARSON	TWIG
BROWN RECLUSE	GREEN LYNX	PIRATE	WESTERN LYNX
BROWN WIDOW	HAMMOCK	REDBACK	WHIP
BUTTON	HERCULES BABOON	RUNNING	WOODLOUSE
CELLAR	HOBO	SAC	ZEBRA
ENAMEL	JEWEL	SOWBUG KILLER	

Ready to retire?
Do you have a plan in place?
Let's talk.

Fee Only Fiduciary, I act in your best interest.

To learn more, call
Brad Singer today
at **480-330-4878**

Brad Singer, CFA
480-330-4878
Brad@VailFinancialAdvisors.com
www.VailFinancialAdvisors.com



*Disclosure: Vail Financial Advisors is an investment advisory firm registered in Arizona. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Differences in account size, timing of transactions and market conditions prevailing at the time of investment may lead to different results, and clients may lose money. Clients should consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of investing. Yields are not guaranteed. May not be appropriate for all investors. Employs the use of option strategies and or Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) using option strategies.

Please Join us

2025-2026 Angels Too Marketplace Unique Boutique

*Handmade
Holiday Crafts, Jewelry, Metal Art,
Baked Goods and more.*

SHOP



FREE ADMISSION

OCTOBER SHOW October 11th & 12th

La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)

Hours:

Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

DECEMBER SHOW December 6th & 7th

La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)

Hours:

Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

FEBRUARY SHOW February 28th & March 1st

La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)

Hours:

Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM



Visit us at: www.angelstoomarketplace.com



The Academy of Tucson

Looking for an A-Rated, tuition free, college-prep,
K-12 school for your child?

Come see about the Academy of Tucson!



Elementary School
9209 E Wrightstown Rd
(520) 886-6076

Middle School
7310 E 22nd St
(520) 749-1413

High School
10720 E 22nd St
(520) 733-0096

Tuition free public charter schools • Founded in 1986 • Chartered in 1999
Fully accredited since 1990 • Small class sizes • College-preparatory curriculum
Art, music, performing arts, PE, technology electives
Extracurricular activities including sports and clubs • 100% Graduation rate
Earn college credit while still in high school

Help a Child Thrive!

Volunteer to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate

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

Finding a Way Forward

Sometimes we get stuck in the past. Nostalgic memories, good times or bad, may stick in our minds as we go throughout our day. We may remember an old friend, pet, or holiday. They evoke strong feelings that have the potential to carry us away to that other state or time. Ostensibly, remembering these events, people,



or places is our way of holding on to what we love or despise, but all cannot last forever. Life is continuously evolving.

Perhaps we spend our time thinking of what could have been, what should have or might've been. Maybe we fear the future. We wonder what will happen or how things will play out. These rabbit warrens of the mind aren't useful in the long run. They are a distraction from the present moment. We must find a way forward, lest we be consumed by our thoughts.

We aren't meant to dwell on the past or always predict the future.



We are meant to be here and now. To live in the past is to be tangled up in the swell of the wave of life, to get crushed against the rocks over and over. To reside in the future is to miss each wave, have it pass you by or smash you from behind. To be in the now is to ride atop the wave, tilting and adjusting to life as it comes at us. Riding the swell and surf brings us pain and pleasure alike. We are meant to go along with it all. Each wave brings new joys or sorrows. The change is constant, it's our job to find a way forward.

So, what is your reason to continue, to move on? What causes you to press forward? Is it family? Community? Responsibility? Is it simple faith in life? Keep finding value in going forward. Let go of ceaseless musings that keep you tied up and join in on the momentum each wave as it beckons us to keep flowing.

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.



dk

DAVIS KITCHENS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

Let's create a space you'll love to live in! At Davis Kitchens, we specialize in custom kitchen and bath designs that blend beauty, function, and your personal style.

- Custom Designs Tailored to You
- Cabinet & Countertop Brands for Every Style & Budget
- Experienced Designers & Installers
- 3D Renderings - See Before You Build

VISIT FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

520-889-4949

5355 E. BROADWAY BLVD.

TUCSON, AZ 85711

www.daviskitchens.com

SCAN ME

Word Search

Solved

hidden message is: SPIDERS HAVE AS FEW AS ZERO AND AS MANY AS TWELVE EYES

ENAMEL

CELLAR

BUTTON

BROWN WIDOW

BROWN RECLUSE

BOLD JUMPER

BOLAS

BIRD DROPPING

BANDED GARDEN

ARROWHEAD

ANT MIMIC

JEWEL

HOBO

HERCULES BABOON

HAMMOCK

GREEN LYNX

GRAY CROSS

GOLDENROD CRAB

GIANT HOUSE

GHOST

FLOWER

FILMY DOME

SOWBUG KILLER

SAC

RUNNING

REDBACK

PIRATE

PARSON

ORBWEAVER

NURSERY WEB

LADYBIRD MIMIC

JUMPING

JOHNSON JUMPER

ZEBRA

WOODLOUSE

WHIP

WESTERN LYNX

TWIG

TURRET

TENT WEB

STRIPED LYNX

STEALTHY GROUND

SPITTING

spiders

38 The Vail Voice

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654



A Fall Game Plan for a Better Credit Score

As cooler weather rolls in, fall often nudges us into better routines. It can also be the right time to check in on your financial health, starting with your credit score. This three-digit number affects everything from loan approvals to interest rates, and small adjustments now can set you up for more stability heading into the holidays.

Here are four key areas to focus on this season to help strengthen your score.

Review Your Report and Protect Your Accounts

Your credit report is the foundation of your score. You're entitled to free reports from all three major bureaus at AnnualCreditReport.com. Look closely for errors like unfamiliar accounts or incorrect balances and dispute anything that doesn't look right.

At the same time, make sure your on-time streak is safe. Setting up autopay for at least the minimum payment can keep you from missing due dates. Adding reminders for statement closing dates is another smart move; paying down balances before those dates can help your utilization look lower when reported.

Keep Credit Utilization in Check
How much of your available credit you're using (your utilization ratio) thevailvoice.com

makes up a big chunk of your score. The goal is to stay under 30%, with 10% or less being ideal. A few strategies help:

- Make mid-cycle or weekly payments to keep balances low.
- Ask your card issuer about a limit increase, as long as you don't use it as permission to spend more.
- Avoid closing older accounts, since that can shorten your credit history and push your utilization higher.

Protect and Repair Payment History

Payment history carries the most weight in scoring models. If you've slipped behind, the sooner you act, the better: payments less than 30 days late may not be reported yet. For accounts already marked late, bring them current and consider asking your lender about a one-time courtesy adjustment if your record is otherwise solid.

Build for the Future

Looking ahead, keep older accounts open when possible, since longevity helps your score. If you're just starting out or rebuilding, secured cards or credit-builder loans can be effective tools for creating positive history. Another option is becoming an authorized user on a trusted family member's card, which may add their established history to your profile.

It's also wise to be strategic with new applications. Hard inquiries

are normal, but if you're planning a major purchase like a home or car, give your profile time to settle before applying.

Everyday Habits That Add Up

- Round up payments beyond the minimum.
- Make small "micropayments" when your paycheck arrives.
- Cancel unused subscriptions and redirect the savings toward debt.
- Set alerts to avoid surprise balances or missed due dates.

By focusing on these areas now, you can give your credit score a healthy push in the right direction. Want guidance tailored to your situation? Hughes Federal Credit Union offers tools and resources to help you take the next step with confidence. Visit HughesFCU.org to learn more.





CALL TODAY: 520-979-3258

AndysAmericanGlass.com

Leading Glass Service Company In Tucson

Auto • Residential • Commercial

15% Discount
by mentioning this ad.

Veteran & Locally Owned.



Back the CatsTM *with a* hometown favorite.



Arizona FootballTM is set for an exciting second season in its new conference and anticipation is sky-high. Hughes Federal Credit Union is proud to fuel the WildcatTM spirit by offering fans our exclusive, contactless University of Arizona[®] Debit Card.

Pair your new card with a FREE Checking Account that will earn dividends monthly. You'll also enjoy:

- Free Unlimited Bill Pay
- No monthly fee
- No minimum balance
- Overdraft Protection
- Convenient Online and Mobile Banking

Opening an account with Hughes is easy online, or you can visit one of our seven convenient branch locations to get your card instantly. Back your team and score with Hughes Federal Credit Union!

Proud supporter of the University of Arizona[®] and home to the Official Arizona Athletics Debit Card.



520-794-8341
HughesFCU.org/Wildcats

Insured by NCUA. Certain restrictions apply.

This Page to be removed