



November Events!
 11/22 El Tour de Tucson
 11/27 Thanksgiving
 See Events on pg. 23!

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THE

NOVEMBER 2025

Your Hometown Newspaper

VAILO VOICE™

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Angel Tree: Lighting the Way

At VailUSD, we recognize the importance of providing wraparound support to our children and their families, especially during periods of financial difficulty. The Angel Tree Program is a key initiative designed to meet the essential needs during the holiday season.

This program helps alleviate financial stress by providing Holiday gifts and basic necessities to

families who have been identified as needing support by our Student Services Coordinators and Counselors. It is a direct and impactful way for the community to contribute to the well-being of our children.

Donor Opportunities and Guidelines

We are actively seeking donors, individuals, groups, and business-



es to partner with us in this effort. Your support helps strengthen our community by ensuring families can meet their children's needs without undue hardship.

How You Can Participate:

Adopt a Child or Family: Donors receive a wish list from a child. We ask that each child receive one "Angel Tree" continued on page 6



The Nature of Friendship

Why wait? Spend your holidays at Rocking K and enjoy the natural beauty of living next to the Rincon Mountains and Saguaro National Park. Take advantage of the top tier schools of Vail Unified School District, including Saguaro Creek, VUSD's newest K-8 School located within Rocking K. Enjoy a full calendar of HOA hosted on-site fun events for families, children and adults, designed to build lasting friendships among Rocking K neighbors.

Explore 17 model homes and 80 floorplans with special incentives on move-in ready homes and luxury rental residences.



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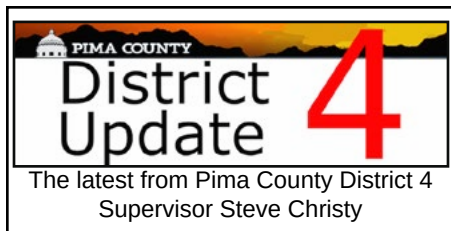
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It seems we can't go a day without reading or hearing the term, "affordable housing". Unfortunately, like so many topics, those words really don't describe the term in practice.



I believe when most of us think of affordable housing, we envision a young person or couple starting out on career and family paths, scrimping, and saving to move out, either from their parent's home or from a rented apartment, into their own first home. This would require finding, qualifying for, and securing a mortgage, homeowner's insurance, and all the associated costs with moving in to the residence. Then the long haul begins of making those monthly payments and maintaining their property and everything that goes along with home ownership and responsibility.

After some years of this discipline and sacrifice, choices could appear for these same homeowners to either move up into a larger residence or continue to build equity in their original purchase. Whatever pathway is chosen, it is reflective of the financial abilities, effort, and record of the homeowner. Toward the end of this homeownership journey, more opportunities appear in utilizing the home's equity for retirement, another home, or any number of options as a result of the faithful stewardship of the homeowner. Sound familiar?

The term "affordable" traditionally has been associated in this scenario with the price of the home,

the interest rate, and term of the mortgage, the monthly mortgage payment and the costs related to the maintenance of the home itself. Now, "affordable housing" means something totally different.

Today, when you hear politicians speak of "affordable housing", they are redefining the term to mean "taxpayer-funded public housing". The majority of the Board of Supervisors recently passed a ten-year, \$250 Million public housing initiative, to be paid for by you, the tax paying property owners.

This scheme passed 4-1 with no public hearings or public input, extremely limited public knowledge, but with a hefty report authored by a Portland consultancy. In a nutshell, Pima County property owners will fund developers (we've noted, mostly from out of state) with heavily-subsidized land to build heavily-subsidized housing units to be rented out to rent-subsidized individuals. Both ends of this spectrum, from construction to habitation will be funded primarily through your property taxes from the County's General Fund.

Additionally, countywide initiatives have been created that will utilize county-owned land to accommodate these public housing projects. It could involve properties across the street or just down the block from where you live. This huge annual spending from the County's General Fund is unsustainable. Not to worry, my colleagues have made it clear that your property taxes will be raised to pay for this.

If we look at the traditional "affordable housing" scenario, imagine this: After years of responsible home-ownership and playing by the rules, county residents will be opening their annual property tax statements and shocked by the increases listed, all to pay to build public housing projects inhabited by people whose rent is tax subsidized.

"Steve Christy"
continued on page 13



Supporting Our Community, On and Off the Road



El Tour de Tucson is almost here.

This annual event showcases the beauty of our region and brings visitors from around the world. As we shared last month, my team has worked closely with the El Tour Board to make sure southeast Tucson and Vail residents are well-informed and able to move around safely during the ride.

If you plan to be out and about that weekend, please check out route maps, detours, and closure details in advance at eltourdetucson.org. We're wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable ride this year and hoping for minimal disruption so our community can enjoy a productive weekend doing the things we love. *Also see list of Road Closures and Road Delays on page 13.*

Coming Together to Support Families in Need

I'm writing this on October 23 while the federal government remains shut down. By the time this newspaper reaches your hands, I sincerely hope the shutdown has ended and that federal employees in our community are once again receiving their paychecks.

Even when the federal government is running, many families across southern Arizona continue to face challenges as we head into the holidays. That's why I've partnered with the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1261, the City of Tucson's City Vets Em-

ployee Resource Group, and the Chamber of Southern Arizona for a region-wide food drive benefiting the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

I also want to highlight the Re-Sources Vail Food Bank (<https://resourcesvail.org>) as one of the local drop-off sites and a valuable ongoing resource for individuals and families in need right here in our community.

If you're able, please consider donating non-perishable food items or making a monetary donation. Every \$1 provides 3 meals for families in Southern Arizona.

Our Southern Arizona community has always shown up for one another, especially in challenging times. Thank you for helping make this season a little brighter for our neighbors who need it most.

As always, you can reach my office with any questions or concerns.

-Nikki



City of Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee

📞 520-791-3199

✉️ Ward4@tucsonaz.gov

🌐 www.tucsonaz.gov/ward4

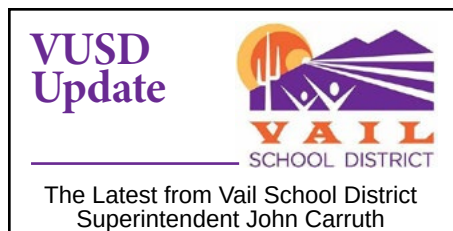
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"Where Education Is a Community Effort" — Most Vail residents have heard this motto of the Vail School District many times as it truly is a reflection of this unique community's greatest priority... its children. We gather at the fairgrounds in droves each February for Vail Pride Day to show our young people how deeply we value them. We claim our tax credits by sending students across the globe, enabling students to participate in countless extracurricular activities, and providing for a school's greatest needs. We show up on countless committees to plan new schools, hire new principals, and develop Common Technology Values.

But, the motto means more than showing up, serving one another, and helping fund specific student needs. It also means linking arms in supporting best instructional practices and supports. Parents sit with their children to help them understand homework and study for assessments. Check and Connect Mentors visit with their assigned students to help with tutoring needs. And, Reading Heroes sit with students to help them improve literacy skills. I am grateful for this continued critical support in all of these areas.

I write today to ask for each of you, whether you are a parent, a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, or a neighbor to join us in helping Vail's students in another critical area of need - learning to become strong, confident readers.

Many of you may have noticed na-

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tional reporting over the last month about third grade reading performance across the country. Nationally, the number of children who are reading at grade level by third grade has not seen improvement or growth since the pandemic.

While the academic achievement of students in Vail is among the very best in the state of Arizona and beyond, Vail is not immune to these struggles. But, in Vail, we are continually improving and are never content with the status quo.

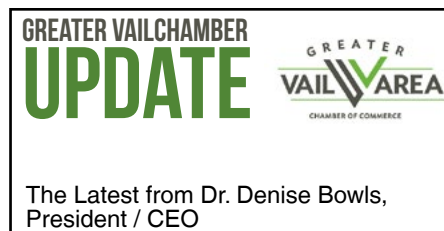
Reading instruction is no exception. We have been working the last three years to improve our students' proficiency in reading. Using state testing data that measures students' proficiency in key skills including reading, writing, critical thinking, and oral reading fluency, Vail worked to identify where our students need additional instruction or support.

Vail utilizes the Science of Reading which is a body of research that investigates how children learn to read and what instructional approaches are most effective. It includes the study of neuroscience, linguistics, psychology, and education of how children learn to read. The program utilizes multiple literacy components daily at the kindergarten through second grade levels including phonics instruction, critical thinking and literary analysis, fluency and comprehension, and more.

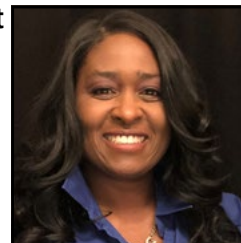
It is not only our job but also a top priority to ensure our students are receiving the very best quality education. Our goal is to build confident, skilled readers. As such, we watch our many student achievement indicators in literacy, and we are always evolving in best practices.

Since launching this program, we are seeing tremendous growth, especially in kindergarten students' understanding of introductory literacy skills. We are also

"John Carruth" continued on page 5



Shining a Light on Community Priorities: Outdoor Lighting, RTA Next & VailFest



As our region continues to grow, two important community topics are drawing attention this month: the Outdoor Lighting Code and RTA Next. Both directly affect how we live, work, and travel, and both call for thoughtful community engagement and collaboration.

The Outdoor Lighting Code is open for public comment until October 15. This code plays a key role in balancing safety, sustainability, and the protection of our night skies, one of southern Arizona's most treasured assets. For residents, it means enjoying our star-filled evenings without excessive glare; for businesses, it's about maintaining visibility and efficiency while preserving the character of our region. Whether you're a business owner, a homeowner, or simply someone who appreciates the desert night, your feedback helps ensure lighting standards support safety, beauty, and sustainability for everyone.

At the same time, the community conversation around RTA Next continues to grow. The proposed continuation of the Regional Transportation Authority plan will shape how transportation funding is distributed across Pima County in the years ahead. For the Vail area, this means future investments in road maintenance, congestion relief, and infrastructure that supports safe and efficient travel. The decisions made through RTA Next will influence

how we connect to work, school, and local businesses and how we continue to strengthen the economic vitality of our region.

Transportation and planning discussions often go hand-in-hand with celebrating the spirit of our community, and there's no better example than VailFest, returning for its 16th year at the Pima County Fairgrounds! The Vail Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to join us for this exciting celebration, featuring a festive parade at 9:30 AM, emceed by Dan Marries from KOLD Channel 13. The parade lineup includes Mayor Tom Murphy, Representative Lupe Diaz (LD 19), Supervisor Steve Christy, Senator David Gowan (LD 19), Councilwoman Nikki Lee, Kevin Volk, and four Vail-area high school homecoming courts. Enjoy local vendors, food trucks, and a Fun Zone for kids of all ages, a true celebration of community connection and pride.

The Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce encourages residents to stay engaged in shaping the policies and celebrations that define our future. Together, we light the path forward, on our roads, under our skies, and in our community spirit.

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!**

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Dear Editor,

Fellow people who love, live and play in the Santa Rita Mountains, are you okay with a foreign corporation taking our resources and shipping it off for processing, eventually being sold back to you? There is no equitable compensation taking place for this. Our politicians can only cite job growth as our bonus so who is benefiting? Open a Costco instead which would give nearly the same amount of good job openings with great benefits and long term gains. I get that we need to bring production back to our country. In a crisis, there is no time to wait for a barge to come from across the world with supplies and optimally we should be supporting local ventures where our money stays in our community.. What I can't abide however are corporations coming from other countries, using millions of gallons of our fresh aquifer water a day, driving up our energy costs, polluting our air and water to lawful levels and then eventually leaving us with the aftermath. There are ways to do things responsibly but they require less investor profit so they only happen if enough people rise up and demand better. Our Vail, Corona de Tucson, Sahuarita and

Green Valley communities need to participate with either <https://www.scenicsantaritas.org/> who utilize doctors, lawyers and scientists or the grassroots community group Nocopperworld.com. Join us and let's work to protect our community.

Julez Buell

Dear Editor,

Save Our Pond - The pond in Rancho Del Lago is more than just water; it is the very heart of our community. It is the reason our neighborhood bears the name "Rancho Del Lago," meaning "Ranch of the Lake." Since the very beginning, this pond has been the centerpiece, the feature that gives our community its character and beauty. For nearly two decades I have fished its waters, and for the last 13 years I have shared that joy with my grandchildren. It has been a place where families gather, where children laugh, and where neighbors find peace together.

So many memories have been created here. Residents come to sit on the benches and take in the calm surroundings. Families bring their dogs to play, and children sail their remote-control boats across

the surface. Couples and graduates have chosen this pond as the backdrop for their most treasured pictures—weddings, proms, milestones—all framed by this special place. For many who know it, the pond is not just another feature; it is the number one amenity of Rancho Del Lago.

Yet sadly, not all residents even know of this gift. And now, in a time when awareness should be raised and its beauty cherished more than ever, I must share with sorrow that the RDL HOA has recently decided to stop maintaining the pond and surrounding area. For nearly 15 years, the HOA has cared for it, even adding a parking lot and walking path so that all residents could have access. But now, this blessing risks being abandoned.

I plead with you—the HOA board and the golf course owner, Mr. David Mendel—to reconsider. The pond was part of the vision for this community, a promise made to prospective residents when the land was developed and sold. The owner profited from the beauty of this feature, and with that comes an obligation to sustain it. To allow it to fade away is not only to break faith with the past, but to rob future generations of joy.

Please, fill the pond, restore it to its full capacity, and maintain this treasured space. Let us honor our community, its history, and its future by preserving the heart of Rancho Del Lago..

Carl Grigel

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Arizona's newest town, San Tan, the 92nd municipality in the state. San Tan incorporated on August 6, 2025 with 66% of its residents voting in favor of self-representation. A Pinal County spokesperson, Mike Goodman, said, "We've heard loud and clear from the public that they want to be able to govern them-

selves. Residents will be able to take responsibility for their own growth...and provide them with lobbying power which will then go to the state of Arizona to get their portion of the tax dollars." The new Town of San Tan will take local control in July 2026 as the 15th most populated town/city in the state..

Rob Samuelsen

Dear Editor,

Thank you for printing my previous submission as a letter to the editor. I would like to offer another submission that you could include as an article or as a letter to the editor:

Pope Francis described mercy as "the best thing we can feel; it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

In our day of heightened political tensions and economic uncertainties, with many people driven by fear or suspicion, we long for a world that could be a little less cold and a little more just. We long for a world changed by mercy.

Interestingly, one of the Biblical words for mercy is the Hebrew word *rachamim* which derives from the Hebrew word for uterus or womb, *rechem*, connecting mercy (or compassion) to the depth of care a mother has for the child she is carrying. Rabbi David Aaron adds, "It's not just about what someone feels for you—it's about the way they hold you, support you, and provide for you without expectation or judgment."

That's the kind of thing that could change our world, that could make our world less cold and more just.

Grace Richardson Long shares an example of such mercy—of holding and supporting another, and of making the world a little less cold:

"Letters to the Editor"
continued on page 5

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"Letters to the Editor"
continued from page 4

"As a single parent, I worried about coping with chores when we moved from the city into the country. However, a grandfatherly neighbor helped me with repair work. Then he died, and his wife was alone for the first time in her life. Knocks on Mary Lou's door went unanswered, but she always went to the post office at 2 p.m. I just happened to show up there with fresh-baked bread. She thanked me and left.

"Two days later, I was back with a casserole. Soon other townspeople began appearing with food. One day Mary Lou wasn't there, and the smiling postmistress handed me this note: 'Dear Friends, You have helped me through a most difficult time. Since I can't possibly eat all the food you've been bringing me and the freezer's full, you're invited to supper tomorrow night at six.'"

Mercy—it's "the best thing we can feel; it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

As Mother Teresa advises us, "Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people."

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

Thank You, Rev. Dr. Brooke Wilkerson for your accurate, insightful words. Both of our fathers and uncles fought in World War II... landed on D-Day... fought in the Battle of the Bulge... participated in liberating one of the concentration camps. Yes, we are keenly aware of the path this country is heading towards; unfortunately. If people in the U.S. fail to take a stand against these injustices, history will repeat itself.

Tom and Micki Thren

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the article by Elaine Schmerbeck regarding the South East Area Council meeting discussing the RTA Next Plan. The information it covered was comprehensive, concise, well organized, and easy to understand. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize we need a YES vote next spring on this plan for transportation improvement in our growing area - and without an increase in our taxes!

Jacqueline Rodarte

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

Follow-up from September:

Melanie Mungia from Ms. Wallace's 5th grade at Sycamore Elementary School won an Honorable Mention award for her Constitution Day Essay in September! *Claire Simon*, 5th grade student of Ms. Middendorf at Sycamore Elementary School won an Honorable Mention award for her Constitution Day Art Poster. The Constitution Day Committee is proud of their work!

"Steve Christy" cont. from page 2

No wonder my colleagues were in such a rush to pass this initiative. If there had been a single public forum held, the program would never have seen the light of day. I believe this is one of the most unfair and unjust initiatives ever imposed upon the taxpayers of Pima County, while our neglected roads still aren't getting fixed.

On a related note, I recently attended a Southern Arizona Governmental Affairs breakfast sponsored by the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association. The panelists included Pima County, PAG/RTA, City of Tucson, and Chamber of So. Arizona representatives and featured key-note speaker, Jim Tobin, the President and CEO of the National Association of Home Builders.

His presentation outlined factors impacting the industry, and as an elected government official, I was surprised to learn that to bring single-family homes out of the ground, 24% of the construction costs are due to meeting governmental regulations, and that percentage increases dramatically to 42% when building apartments. Though acknowledging the overall concept of regulations as necessary, his message was loud and clear: Government needs to get out of the way and let homebuilders do what they do best - build homes. It is my sincere hope that the panelists and the some 200 community leader attendees heard him.

Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4
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district4@pima.gov

"John Carruth" cont. from page 3

utilizing the program with students who are in more advanced grades who have reading gaps and are

seeing tremendous success and growth.

However, learning to read isn't confined to the walls of our schools. There are many easy strategies that can be used at home and in the community to help children become better readers. One of the easiest and most rewarding is carving out a few minutes each day to read with our children. Begin reading to children as soon as you can to help them develop key language and literacy skills. Books are also a great reward for positive behavior. Earning extra books or chapters highly motivates young children.

Visit the library regularly. Let's keep the W. "Anne" Gibson - Esmond Station Library parking lot filled every day. Model the joys of reading books. When you take your children to the library, don't forget to pick out a book for yourself as children love to mimic what they see modeled by the adults who love them. If you do not have children, grandchildren, or little ones as neighbors, please consider volunteering at one of our schools as a Reading Hero. We need you and your love for reading in our schools as well.

We will continue to modify and refine our reading instructional practices as educators, and we look forward to continuing to see Vail's students improve their reading proficiency as this community joins us in teaching the value of reading in homes and libraries across Vail... Where Education Is a Community Effort. If you have questions about how you can help in this most important of causes, please reach out to one of our schools today.

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.

Arizona Film Studios (AFS) Announces Cienega High School Senior Receives U.S. Copyright for Original Script

Eliza Hatfield, a senior at Cienega High School (CHS), has received her first official copyright from the U.S. Library of Congress for an original script titled "The Adventures of Nevada Brown Script S1E1 and Other Unpublished Works" (Registration No.: TXu 2-502-937). This milestone marks a historic moment, as Eliza may be the first student from the Vail Unified School District to achieve such recognition while still a student.



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"Angel Tree" continued from page 1

wish, one want, some clothing items, and small stocking stuffers from their list.

Contribute Essential Items: We also accept donations of high-demand essential items, including new shoes, blankets, hoodies, hygiene products, or gift cards.

Group or Business Participation: Adopting a child or family can be an excellent team-building activity that directs your collective efforts toward a meaningful community outcome.

Delivery Instructions: Presents must be delivered to the child's specific campus no later than December 5th. All gifts must be delivered unwrapped and clearly labeled with the anonymous Angel number provided.

Connect With Us

Life often presents challenges, but in VailUSD, we truly believe that we are all in this together. Education is a community effort, and extending grace and generosity during a difficult time is the highest form of that effort. We invite you to make a meaningful difference this holiday season. Your generosity through the Angel Tree Program offers essential comfort and brings much-needed light to a VailUSD family facing hardship. Join us in sharing the spirit of the season.

To donate or learn more, please reach out today:

Email: Jill Wells at
wellsji@vailschooldistrict.org

Call/Text:
520-221-9207

Thank you for considering a partnership and donation that will bring genuine support and make a huge impact in the lives of our families.

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RTAnext

Investing in transportation to meet your needs

A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

The Regional Transportation Authority is hosting an RTA Next Plan Q&A Session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 13 to share information about the \$2.67 billion regional transportation plan that Pima County voters will consider next March.

The plan proposes improvements to reduce congestion and support cleaner air, enhance network reliability, safety and efficiency, and expand transit, bike and pedestrian options.

YOU'RE INVITED

RTA Next Plan Q&A Session

5:30 to 7 p.m., Nov. 13

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library
10931 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Tucson

Learn more:
RTAnext.com/projectlist



The RTA operates its programs without regard to race, color and national origin in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

If you need translation assistance, please call (520) 792-1093 and ask for Zonia Kelley. Si necesita ayuda con traducción, llame por favor al (520) 792-1093 y comuníquese con Zonia Kelley.

Visit RTAnext.com for other Q&A sessions.

RTA
Regional Transportation Authority

RTAmobility.com

VAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Discovering Vail's History

Waters of Cienega Creek – a Commodity?

Alex Berger was a man who didn't waste time. As soon as his La Cienega Land and Cattle Company identified a suitable spot to build their submerged dam in Cienega Creek, work began. It was cool and dry in April 1911, and there was little danger of flash flooding. Work crews excavated the overlying sand down to bedrock. The volume of water was so great that the pumps were unable to handle all of it. Powerful centrifugal pumps were brought in and adjusted. Concrete mixers were staged creek side at the ready. 45 men and 30 teams were hard at work. Excavations were made to a depth of 45' to bedrock. The arch-type dam had a curved-span length of 67'. It was designed to capture both the surface and subsurface water flow. The work was hot and done in earnest in the spring of 1911, but the vision behind it was a decade in the making.

Record rainfall in July 1901 sparked W.K. Maull's grand idea. William had a vision for the increased farming productivity, development, and economic benefits that harnessing the waters of Cienega Creek would create. This was a time when advances in technology made it seem that almost anything was possible. Phoenix and other locations in Arizona Territory were putting natural resources to work for their benefit, why not at Vails Station?

Maull already had a successful farming operation near Vails Station, but he was sure that not only could Cienega Creek increase the yield on his 400 acres, but, with thevailvoice.com



Cienega Dam looking north

bold planning and investment, his vision would make the desert surrounding the Creek into abundant farmland. He and his investors would also reap substantial economic benefits. W.K. hired a well-known civil engineer, W.H. Ferguson, to do a feasibility study. Ferguson's 1904 report was very favorable. "...there is no question about several hundred inches steady flow of water. [...] I recommend the project as a very profitable investment." That same year Maull put together a prospectus and worked to move the project forward.

Maull estimated that his Pantano Irrigation Project Company could acquire the water rights outright and purchase another 10,000 acres. Land was selling for \$2.50 - \$5.00 an acre. Each of which would be sold with a water allotment for \$30 - \$50 an acre. This would cover the cost of constructing a dam and more. It might even be possible to pipe water to Tucson! After all, the engineer calculated that the dam would create a 90-acre reservoir of water. This commodity provided by nature would be great for business and make the investors all wealthy. An important aspect was missing. Water is not a commodity, water is life. Cienega Creek's lush landscape was, and is, teaming with wildlife. Those waters were already sustaining, as they had for hundreds of years, the lives of the Tohono O'odham and others who lived in harmony with the land. Maull's dream of capturing the creek never materialized, but other men would come to share it.

"Vail Preservation Society"
continued on page 11

GREATER VAIL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

VAILFEST 2025

Bringing Community and Business Together
Fun for the entire family!

- Parade
- Local Vendors and Artisans
- Food Trucks
- Kids Activities
- Beer Tent
- Silent Auction - proceeds go to our VUSD scholarship program

...And MUCH more!

PIMA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Old Pueblo Hall
11300 S Houghton Rd | Tucson, AZ 85747

FREE ENTRY!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



95 Years Loved

The Corona de Tucson community recently gathered to celebrate a momentous birthday for Carmela D'Amore who turned 95 years young on October 9. The Corona de Tucson Fire Department participated in a procession that drove by her home on South Atlanta Drive and included friends and neighbors who creatively decorated their vehicles, scooters and themselves and cheered in her honor as they passed by.

This was a wonderful surprise event for the birthday lady, orchestrated by her daughter Sandi and son-in-law Paul. Carmela enjoyed a similar event on her 90th birthday during the pandemic and has never forgotten it. She often

replays the story to others even five years later. Her daughter knew this is really what would make her mom happy and that it would be the highlight of her special day.



Following the procession, Sandi and Paul surprised Carmela again with a birthday cake celebration at the American Legion Post 109. Many friends and community members were invited to come by and offer her their well wishes.

Carmela and her family would like to extend their appreciation to all who were able to attend these events and want to give a special thanks to the CdT Fire Department personnel who made Carmela's day splendid and memorable.

By Sandra D'Amore

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Written by
Mel Shipley
ACNP



Garden Tips November

- Get your irrigation system ready to be adjusted for cooler weather, do repairs now.
- Be sure to have frost cloth ready to cover cold sensitive plants.
- Plant new trees & shrubs now as they will use less water.
- Pot up color arrangements to refresh entrance ways and patios.
- Prune cold hardy deciduous trees once dormant, usually end of the month, watch for warm temps though.



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A Season To Be Thankful

By Chuck Colbath

Here at Babilon we have the good fortune of getting acquainted with some of the nicest folks anywhere. John gets to meet, and over time to know, our clients, and tells me of their stories and life experiences that they have shared with him. We have come to realize that our community here in Vail is one filled with people who enjoy where they live, and appreciate the quality of life afforded those of us fortunate enough to call this area home.

As our Stylists spend the most time with our clients, notes are often taken and preserved. By doing that, our stylists can refresh their memory and be certain to provide the best possible services. Those notes can be very helpful if someone needs service and their stylist does not have any availability that day. This in part is

how we at Babilon strive to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction.

Here at Babilon we are thankful for the continued support of our local community. Your loyalty has fostered an environment in which our stylists are happy to see their clients return on a regular basis. Thank you very much! We understand that meeting or exceeding your expectations is in everyone's best interest. It's part of truly caring, and wanting to do the best job possible. Striving for greatness is not really a moving target, it's just a lot of hard work sticking to strong principles and ideals, which in our case includes keeping you in the know, standing behind our work, as well as putting our customers first. That's what it's all about for John and me!

We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and remember 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 Babilonsalon.com. Or call us at (520) 762-8787 and we will be happy to assist you.

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"Vail Preservation Society"
continued from page 7

It was Alex Berger, who had the controlling share of La Cienega Land and Cattle Company, who would build the dam. To make it happen, University of Arizona Professor George Smith was brought on board. Professor Smith was a nationally recognized hydrology expert and very influential in Arizona Territory. Smith was sure that the Cienega Creek site identified was an excellent candidate for a uniquely designed dam that would capture both the surface and sub-surface water flow. Professor G.E.P. Smith visited the site multiple times and consulted with Berger. Tucson newspapers reported on his comings and goings, "... Professor Smith left on [train] No. 8 Wednesday on a visit to Alex Berger's Cienega ranch, near Vail Station."

The April 3, 1911, Tucson Citizen headline boldly stated, "Will Make Proposal To City Council

To Pipe Water From Vail Station." Alexander Berger was publicly querying the city of Tucson as to what they could offer in response to his proposal to furnish Tucson with 3,000,000 gallons of water—daily—from the surface and submerged dam he and partners were building. Berger was sure the City Council would fund piping the water to Tucson for municipal use. He was certain the unique dam he had his Foreman, R.R. Schweitzer, were building was going to pay off in a big way. Find out about the costs and the consequences in the new year... *to be continued.*

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 Culturekeeper in 2011 and an Arizona Friend of the Humanities in 2020.



There is lots of interest in Sprouts coming to Vail. Sprouts is coming, but construction is not scheduled to begin until 2028. Of course plans are always subject to change, and we'll keep you posted here at The Vail Voice!

Also **Toro Bravo** just off of I-10 at the old Vail Steakhouse location hopes to open by year's end. We are all excited about the opening! Look for updates in our next issue.





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You are invited to Southline Transmission Project's open houses

Southline Transmission, L.L.C. is requesting an amendment to its 2017 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC no. 173) to expand Southline's construction approval to include the upgrade of approximately 60 miles of an existing Western Area Power Administration transmission line.

Southline invites you to attend an in-person open house meeting to learn more about Southline, ask questions, and provide input while meeting with Southline representatives.

Date: Monday, November 10, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Red Barn Event Center,
711 Madison St., Benson, AZ 85602

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Pima County Fairgrounds:
The Palo Verde Room, 11300 S. Houghton Rd.,
Tucson, AZ 85747

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Willcox Community Center,
312 W. Stewart St., Willcox, AZ 85643

**Questions and comments can be
submitted to:**

connect@southlinetransmission.com

(520) 485-5764

Southline CEC

343 W. Franklin Street

Tucson, AZ 85701

www.southlinetransmission.com



SEAC October 14, 2025 Community Meeting

October's SEAC Community meeting was held at the W. Anne Gibson – Esmond Station Library and presented Priscilla Storm who provided an educational overview of land use change procedures in Pima County, with a specific focus on the Rocking K master-planned community development. The meeting was also broadcast live on Facebook and is now on YouTube.

Priscilla Storm, Vice President for Diamond Ventures

Priscilla's background includes real estate regulatory advocacy, monitoring governmental policies, identifying investment opportunities, managing community associations, and overseeing marketing. She also chairs the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce.

Understanding the Southeast Area of Pima County

• **Geographic Definition:** The area encompassing I-19, the Tucson International Airport, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, extending east to the Cochise County line, and south to Sahuarita Road, including Corona de Tucson.

• **Elected Officials:** Key decision-makers for the Southeast include Pima County District 4 (Steve Christie) and District 2 (Dr. Matt Hines), as well as City of Tuc-

son Ward 4 (Nikki Lee) and Ward 5 (interim Rocque Perez).

• **Census Designated Places**

(CDPs): The U.S. Census recognizes and records population every ten years in these three areas –

» Rincon Valley - 1,831 in 2000 to 5,612 in 2020 (256% growth rate)
» Vail - 2,830 in 2000 to 13,604 in 2020 (381% growth rate)
» Corona de Tucson - 863 in 2000 to 9,240 in 2020 (970% growth rate)

• **RTA NEXT (Regional Transportation Authority):**

» The RTA's half-cent sales tax, which funds two-thirds of regional roadways, expires next year, with a reauthorization on the March 2026 ballot.

» The Southeast has historically been underfunded relative to its growth.

» Significant wins for the Southeast in the RTA NEXT plan include:

- Colossal Cave Road: Widening in the vicinity from I-10 to Camino Loma Alta (\$147 million, largest regional project, kept on the list despite opposition).
- Mary Ann Cleveland Way: Widening from Houghton to Colossal Cave (kept on the list through advocacy).
- ADOT Interchange: Traffic interchange at Rita Road and I-10.

Pima County Land Use Change Procedures

• **Basic Principle:** Every piece of land has both a planning designation (long-term vision) and a zoning designation (specific allowed uses). Both must be aligned for development.

• **Process Overview:**

» **Comprehensive Plan Amendment:** Amends the county's 10-year land use plan, required by state statute. Applications typically submitted in spring, heard in the fourth quarter.

» **Rezoning:** Changes the specific zoning designation.

» **Development Agreement:** An optional, voluntary contract between the county and property owner, detailing rights, responsibilities, timing, and financing.

• **"Specific Plan":** For large, multi-year, multi-decade phased developments (like Rocking K), a "specific plan" is used as a hybrid rezoning code.

• **Public Input in Rezoning Process:**

» Pre-application meeting with Pima County staff.
» Neighborhood meeting (required public input).
» Application submission, including a comprehensive Site Analysis Checklist (covering existing land uses, topography, biological resources, hydrology, transportation, cultural sites, proposed changes, water management, traffic impacts, school capacity, dust control, etc.).
» Staff and external agency application review.

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» Staff recommendation (approve/deny/conditions).
» Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission hearing (public input).
» Board of Supervisors hearing (final decision, public input).

• **Post-Approval:** A rezoning ordinance is drafted, formally changing the map and listing all condi-

"SEAC"

continued on page 14

SEAC (South East Area Council)

is seeking volunteers to fill officer and board positions to complete the 13-member Board of Directors. Board members serve as chairs of nine standing committees. Volunteers may also join one or more of these committees.

To request an application, please email SEAC@seazcouncil.org or W. Anne Gibson at annegibson7975@aol.com.

CRITERIA SOUGHT:

- Over 21 Years of Age
- English Speaking and Writing

- Must be Residents of South East Pima County
- Must Care About Keeping Residents Informed

Deadline to submit is November 15, 2025. Applicants will be notified of their status by December 15, 2025. New officers and board members will be seated at the January, 2026 annual meeting.

Contact information:

SEAC@seazcouncil.org

SEAC "Southeast Area Council" is a citizen led, non-partisan group that facilitates conversations between residents and our elected officials, administration, businesses, and others who have a direct impact on our daily lives. Our community meetings will mostly take place monthly. We will also have working groups that you may decide to participate in.



SOUTHEAST AREA COUNCIL



2025 El Tour de Tucson Road Closures and Delays

Saturday, November 22nd Road closures are subject to change

El Tour starts at 7:00 am with all routes close at 4:30 pm after 4:30 pm all riders must abide by the rules of the road.

• **WB and EB Cushing** (Stone to El Paso): Friday 6:00 am – Saturday 8:00 pm

• **SB and NB Main** (3rd Avenue (12th Street to 18th Street): 7:00 am – 11:30 am

• **EB and WB 12th Street** (4th Avenue to 3rd Avenue): 7:00 am – 11:30 am

• **EB and WB Simpson St** (Otero Ave – Sentinel Ave) 7:00 am – 11:30 am

• **WB and EB 15th Street** (Stone to 4th Ave): 4:00 am – 11:30 am

• **NB and SB 4th Ave** (15th Street to Broadway): 4:00 am – 11:30 am

• **NB and SB 6th Ave** (Stone to 15th Ave): 4:00 am – 11:30 am

• **NB and SB 6th Ave** (22nd Street to Stone Ave): 4:00 am to 5:00 pm

• **NB and SB Stone Ave** (6th Ave and 18th Street to 14th Ave): 4:00 am to 12:30 pm

• **EB Aviation Parkway** and some intersections (Broadway – Golf Links): 6:30 am – 12:00 pm

• **SB Kolb from Escalante to Valencia** (32 Mile Route) 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

• **WB Valencia Rd** West bound only from Houghton to Kolb 6:00 am – 12:00 pm
thevailvoice.com

• **Houghton** at the Pima County Fairgrounds Roads Closed (Drive-way and Dawn Rd) 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

• **WB & EB Continental** (between CPAC and Duval Mine Rd): 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

• **NB Mission** (Duval Mine Rd to Helmet Peak Rd): 9:30 am – 2:25pm

I-10 And I-19 On Ramp And Off Ramp Closures And Related Information

• **EB SR 210** (Aviation Pkwy.) will be closed from 6:30 am to 12:00 pm.

• **I-10 and Houghton Interchange** (TI) from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm:

- **The I-10 WB On-Ramp** will be closed.
- **The I-10 EB Off-Ramp** will be closed.
- **NB Houghton Road** traffic will be detoured on I-10 from the EB I-10 On-Ramp to the Colossal Cave / Wentworth Rd. TI and back to the WB I-10 Off-Ramp onto Houghton Rd.
- **The WB Off-Ramp** will be open but traffic turning SB onto Houghton Road will be flagged.

• **I-10 and Valencia Interchange** (TI) from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm:

- **The I-10 EB Off-Ramp** will be closed.
- **The I-10 WB Ramps** will be open with flagger(s) to control traffic.
- **The I-10 EB On-Ramp** will be open.

• **I-10 and 6th Ave. Interchange** (TI) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm:

- **The I-10 EB Off-Ramp** will be closed.
- **The I-10 EB On-Ramp / Frontage Road and WB Off-**



Ramp / Frontage Road will be open with flagger(s) to control traffic at 6th Ave.

- **The I-10 WB On-Ramp** will be open.

• **I-19 and Continental Interchange** (TI) from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm:

- **The I-19 NB and SB Off-Ramps** will be closed.
- **The I-19 NB On-Ramp** will be open with flagger(s) to control traffic.
- **The I-19 SB On-Ramp** will be open.
- **The I-19 East Side and West Side Frontage Roads** will be open with flaggers to control traffic. Left Turns from the West Side Frontage Road onto WB Continental Road will be restricted.

• **I-19 and Sahuarita Interchange** (TI) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm:

- **The I-19 NB Off-Ramp and SB On-Ramp** will be closed.
- **The I-19 NB On-Ramp and SB Off-Ramp** will be open.

Road delays expected:

Escalante and Kolb Intersection
102 Mile and 63 Mile 7:21 am – 11:00 am

Camino Seco and Irvington
102 Mile and 63 Mile 7:25 am – 11:30pm

Kolb and Valencia 63 Mile & 32 Mile 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Valencia and Houghton EB 102 mile & 63 Mile 7:15 am – 11:30 am

Maryann Cleveland Way and Houghton 102 Mile turn left & 63 Mile turn right 8 am – 1:45 pm

Valencia and Houghton WB 63 Mile 10:30 Am – 12:45 pm

Sahuarita and Nogales Hwy (102 Mile 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Valencia & Alvernon (63 Mile & 32 Mile 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Aerospace Pkwy & Nogales Hwy (102 Mile, 63 Mile & 32 Mile 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Stone from 18th Street to Cushing (102 Mile, 63 Mile & 32 Mile 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Best means of getting to Airport on El Tour Day:

I-10 either direction Exit Kino
South to Benson Hwy turn left go to Tucson Boulevard to Airport.

"SEAC"

continued from page 12

tions of approval. Compliance is checked during plat submission and permitting.

• **Public Information:** Public hearing schedules are available from the Planning and Zoning Commission with notices of land use changes published in The Daily Territorial. Direct notifications are required for properties within 300 feet of a proposed change.

Rocking K Master Planned Community Details

• **Governing Factors:** Rocking K is governed by Pima County's approved facilities plan, development agreements, and federal/state regulations (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers for designated washes). Rocking K encompasses 4,828 acres total, zoned for 6,700 dwelling units.

• Community Partnership Initiatives:

- » Dedicated Rincon Creek acreage to Pima County Flood Control District.
- » Dedicated alignment and acreage for Hope Camp Trail to Pima County Parks and Recreation.
- » Diamond Ventures paid for the Valencia Road extension from Houghton to Old Spanish Trail, including the bridge over the Pantano Wash (noted as a significant regional improvement by a private developer).
- » Eliminated two previously planned golf courses.
- » Provided 25 acres (originally 15) for Saguaro Creek K-8 School, considering public education as infrastructure.
- » Provides voluntary financial contributions to the Vail Unified School District (VUSD) for every home built.
- » Owns and financially sponsors the Rincon Valley Farmers and Artisans Market and "The Big Green Barn."
- » Purchased, environmentally remediated, and found an operator



for the former Ray's Market.
» Supports the Vail Preservation Society and Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce.
» Collaborates with VUSD for summer and break programs and with student organizations (e.g., FBLA) for service projects.

• Development Phases:

1. Phase 1: Academy Village (first area developed to vest development rights).
2. Phase 2: Rocking K South (south of Old Spanish Trail, currently active).
3. Phase 3: Rocking K Village Town Center (north of Old Spanish Trail, south of Rincon Creek, mixed-use).
4. Final Phase: Rocking K North (north of Rincon Creek, up to Saguaro National Park).

• Rocking K South (Current Status):

- » Refers to 2,047 acres with approximately 4,500 residential units and 45% open space.
- » As of October 13, 2023: 983 homes closed and occupied. Builders have purchased 2,789 lots.
- » Average new home purchase price: \$443,312.
- » Street Naming: Reflects authentic regional history (wildflowers, African American historical figures, Navajo code talkers, mining claims).
- » **Off-site Transportation Improvements:**
 - Completed: Valencia Road extension (Houghton to OST), traffic signal at Valencia/OST.
 - Under Construction: Traffic signal at Old Spanish Trail (OST) and Camino Loma Alta, drainage culvert on Camino Loma Alta, traffic signal at OST and Rocking K Ranch Loop Road (main

entrance to Rocking K South).

- Future: Widening OST to four lanes (Valencia to Rocking K Ranch Loop), widening Camino Loma Alta to four lanes (Old Spanish Trail to Rincon Valley Fire District station).

• Rocking K North (Future Plans):

- » Refers to 2,781 acres with approximately 2,200 residential units, 40 commercial acres, a golf course and a resort.
- » Grading activities currently underway are a requirement from Pima County Regional Flood Control District to remove excess soil from Rincon Creek (originally planned for golf course bank protection) and place it in the future town village center area. This resulted in the relocation of Rocking K Stables.
- » The next phase (Rocking K Village Town Center) will be a mixed-use neighborhood commercial center. Horizontal work precedes commercial development, which requires sufficient population to attract interest (e.g., a grocery anchor).

• Water Supply (Spanish Trail Water Company):

- » Private water provider regulated by Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- » Possesses a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) for 6,400 acres.
- » Received a Determination of Assured Water Supply (DAWS) in 2020 (valid through 2035), signifying a 100-year water supply for all current and future development within its service area.

• **Public Input Clarification:** Public input is crucial during the land planning (comprehensive plan amendment or rezoning) process. Once development rights are vested, the opportunity for public input on those specific rights typically passes.

• **Cemetery Fence:** Rocking K is not responsible for fencing the adjoining cemetery, as it is not their property.

• Development Challenges:

Diamond Ventures acknowledges that development near existing neighborhoods is challenging but strives for good community relations. Every community request or government exaction during the negotiation phase adds to the cost, impacting housing affordability.

The meeting concluded with an announcement that SEAC will have a booth at Vail Fest on Saturday, November 8th, at the fairgrounds. Appreciation for Priscilla as the night's speaker and Gerald Lamb's ongoing technical assistance was given.

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. 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*

Questions & Answers

Climate Review



A Look Back

September 2025 Climate Report

The September and full monsoon climate report by John Simpson. Starting out with temperatures, Tucson recorded its 11th warmest September on record. The average monthly high was 0.2 degrees above the 30-year average - 95.3 / 95.1 and the average low was 73.1 degrees, which was 2.7 degrees above the 30-year average low of 70.4 degrees. On the rainfall side, as I stated last month, parts of the area were above average, average, and below average. I recorded 2.19" of rain, which was above my 15-year average of 1.80." The airport only recorded 0.83" which was below its 30-year average of 1.32."



Rainfall for the Vail readership area varied from about ¾" to 5.5" for the month. The low amounts were in Rita Ranch, and the high amounts were at Old Spanish Trail and Camino Loma Alta, which had two storm events that each dumped over 2" of rain in a week's



time, which is statistically very rare. For the Tucson metro area, low 0.5" rain amounts occurred in many areas along I-10 North of downtown and the two hot spots were located in Vail, (mentioned previously at Old Spanish / Camino Loma Alta) and Ft. Lowell / Campbell, where 3" rain amounts were common. See rainlog.org for rainfall reports statewide.

For the full monsoon, June 15 to September 30th, the Tucson airport recorded the 5th hottest monsoon season and 12th driest. The average high was 100.7, 2.0 degrees above average, and the average low was 76.5 degrees, 2.6 degrees warmer than average. On the rainfall side, even though the last week part of September was wet for many areas, most areas were below average. I only recorded 3.91" which is well below my average of around 7.5" and my 2nd driest monsoon this past 15 years. The Tucson airport only recorded 2.82" which is well below its 30-year monsoon average of 5.69." As stated above, this is the Tucson Airport's 12 driest monsoon the past 130 years. For the Vail area, monsoon rainfall varied from 2" in Rita ranch to 8" at the area wide hot spot of Old Spanish Trail / Camino Loma Alta.

So, how did this monsoon do compared to averages? It depends

on location and varies greatly as is typical for the monsoon. Even though the airport and my location had a very dry monsoon, some parts of the area were near average. As mentioned many times already in this article, just 4 miles to my northeast, the intersection of Old Spanish and Camino Loma Alta had more than double my rain amount at 8" which is near that location's average of 9" for monsoon rainfall. In addition, some areas on the far northwest side of town (Dove Mountain) recorded 5-6" of rain, which is around their average as well. The wet end of September did push the Phoenix Airport and Globe, Arizona to above average in the final stretch of the monsoon. However, destructive flooding did result.

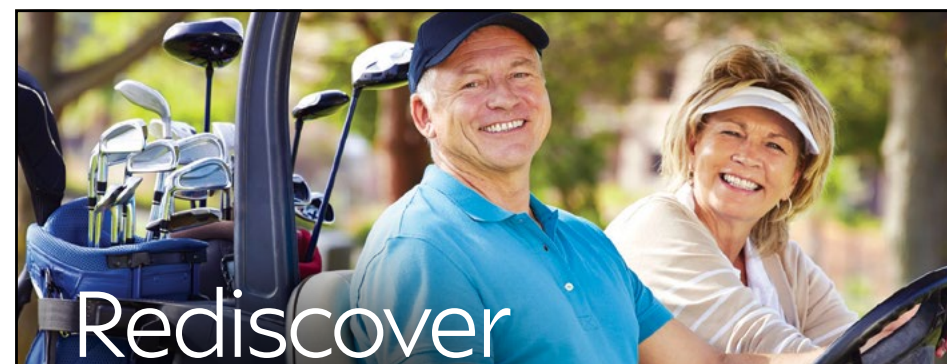
For next month, I will discuss October, which had a very wet few days in the middle of the month. Most areas are well above average. A stretch of the East side of

Tucson (that includes the far West side of the Vail readership area) has had over 3" of rain. Parts of Phoenix have received over 5" of rain and more flooding has occurred in Globe, Arizona. Tune in for a full report next month.

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



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



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Staying Grounded

Life is always shifting. Some of us embrace change, while others find comfort in routine. But no matter your preference, one truth remains: change is constant.

Think about your life five or ten years ago. What kind of phone did you use? Who was part of your daily life? Chances are, something significant has changed—someone moved, had a baby, switched jobs, or perhaps you've gone through a major transition yourself.

Even positive change can feel overwhelming. That's why it's important to have tools that help you stay grounded as life moves forward.

Here are a few simple ways to stay centered in times of transition:

Daily breathing exercises (try the 4-4-4-4 box breathing technique)

Quick body scans to check in with how you're feeling

Mindful walking — paying attention to your steps, sounds, and surroundings

Gratitude journaling — write down 3 things you're thankful for each day

Creative time — try something new: paint, dance, read, write

Screen-free quiet time, even just 5 minutes a day

Change is inevitable, but chaos



doesn't have to be. Building small, mindful habits can help you feel more present, more balanced, and more in control—no matter what life throws your way.

What's one small step you can take today to ground yourself in the middle of change?

This is Lisa Kindle's card. Their email is hello@solquestretreat.com. Their phone number is +1 763 498 1282.

Lisa M. Kindle
Artist & Executive Director,
Solquest Retreat
Creativity Coach
Creator of the Color Affirmation
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Lisa's passion is to help people discover their soul-purpose through therapeutic art practices. Kindle is fascinated at how color serves to assist in revealing a person's life path through creative wellness mentoring. She is the queen of creativity!



Strong Roots Start in Fall

Native Planting Guide for Vail

For gardeners in Vail, late fall may feel like the season to put things on pause. But in truth, November is a great time to plant many native and desert-adapted species. Cooler temperatures and shorter days create ideal conditions for roots to establish before the stress of summer heat. By planting now, you're giving your landscape a head start.

Trees with Staying Power

If you're dreaming of shade, consider native trees such as Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Mesquite (*Prosopis spp.*), or Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia spp.*). These hardy trees root deeply in cool soil, making them more resilient when summer arrives. The Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis var. texensis*) is another favorite—it bursts with magenta blooms in spring. There are so many options available right here in the garden center to suit every style of desert landscape.

Shrubs and Perennials

Several drought-tolerant shrubs thrive when planted in late fall. Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*), Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), and Damianita Daisy (*Chrysactinia mexicana*) all establish quickly in the cooler months and reward you with cheerful blooms in spring. And remember—there are dozens of shrubs and perennials in stock that perform beautifully in our climate.

Grasses for Movement and Texture

Native ornamental grasses like Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*), and Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) add movement, soften hardscapes, and provide habitat for birds. Our garden center carries many more options in this category as well, so you can find the perfect fit for your yard.



Why November Works

Unlike spring planting, fall planting focuses on roots, not shoots. Plants spend the cooler months building strong root systems instead of pushing out foliage and flowers. By the time temperatures rise, they're already established and better equipped to handle heat and drought.

Tips for Success

- Water deeply at planting, then reduce frequency as the weather cools.
- Mulch around the base of new plants to insulate roots and conserve water.
- Keep frost cloth on hand for tender young plants.

At Four Arrows Garden, you'll find a wide selection of desert trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials perfect for planting right now. We're honored to have been voted Best Garden Center in the Tucson area, and we're proud to be Vail's hometown source for plants, pottery, and desert gardening advice. Come see us just down the road—you'll be amazed at what's possible in your November garden!

By Linsay Chavez
Owner, Four Arrows Garden
www.FourArrowsGarden.com



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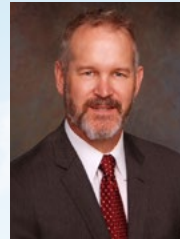
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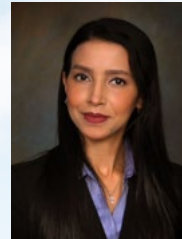
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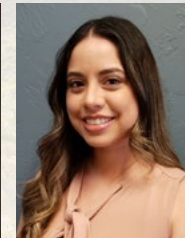
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Where Leadership Takes Shape: Inside Vail's NJROTC Program

Long before the first bell rings at Cienega High School, the sound of marching feet echoes across campus. These early risers, the cadets of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC), are learning far more than military customs. They are learning leadership, discipline, and the power of character.

Commander Micah Brewer, Senior Naval Science Instructor for Vail School District's NJROTC program, knows that developing strong citizens is at the heart of what they do and why they do it.

"The primary mission of JROTC is citizenship and character development," Commander Brewer said. "We use naval customs and traditions to teach important character traits like honor and integrity.

We talk about deadlines, objectives, and

planning, all tied in from a military perspective. The goal isn't to produce sailors. It's to prepare students for life."

Commander Brewer joined Cienega's NJROTC in October 2023 after retiring from a 22-year Navy career as a Surface Warfare Officer. Now, alongside Chief Fuller, he teaches everything from drill and physical fitness to academics and community service, all with the goal of creating responsible, confident leaders.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which includes 178 students from all Vail high schools, is open to anyone interested in growth, service, and teamwork.

Students from Empire, Vail Academy and High School, Andrada Polytechnic, and Mica Mountain attend zero-hour classes at Cienega and then take a bus back to their

respective campuses.

While only about 8 percent of cadets pursue a military career, Commander Brewer said the lessons learned extend far beyond uniforms and formations. "A lot of cadet programs use the tagline 'leadership laboratory,'" he said. "We are preparing them for real life."

Those lessons show up not only in the classroom but across the community. NJROTC cadets can often be found volunteering at local events, performing color guard ceremonies, or helping with service projects. Their professionalism and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

"At a recent job fair, most every industry represented said they'd take our cadets because of their skillset," Brewer shared. "It looks great on a resume, but more impor-



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tantly, it shows character.”

For senior Ella Johnson the NJROTC program has been transformative. “I was really shy when I came into the program,” Cadet Johnson said. “My brothers had been part of it, and they told me it would help me come out of my shell, and they were right.”

Now, four years later, Cadet Johnson is one of the program’s student leaders. She has learned how to guide others, speak in public, and take initiative. These are skills she says she will carry into her future as she studies radiologic technology at the University of Arizona.

“In middle and high school, most kids learn how to follow,” Cadet Johnson said. “This program taught me how to lead. It’s helped me build confidence and discipline, and it’s made me realize that leadership isn’t about

giving orders. It’s about setting an example.”

That sense of mentorship runs deep in the NJROTC ranks. Younger cadets look up to upperclassmen like Cadet Johnson, creating a cycle of growth and encouragement.

“It’s kind of like a big family,” she said. “You always have someone to look up to, and now it’s really rewarding to be that person for someone else.”

Commander Brewer agrees that watching cadets evolve over time is one of the best parts of his job. “You get a lot of negativity about youth sometimes,” he said. “But when you actually work with them and see the end product, and how they’ve progressed, it’s incredible. Every year, you get to see that renewal of hope.”

Whether they go on to serve in the military, attend a service academy, or pursue college and careers elsewhere, Vail’s NJROTC cadets leave the program with more than medals and ribbons. They leave with purpose.

As Cadet Johnson put it, “If you want to feel included and part of something bigger, it’s perfect. It’s more than just a class, and it can take you so far.”



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VAIL STRONG

It's well known that the Vail community is a special place - a close knit small town at heart. It is not the location of Vail however that makes us special. It is the people. That's why the Vail School District Foundation, ReSources, American Legion Post 109, Four Arrows Garden, Galaxy Theatres, and the Vail School District are coming together to bring you this free event.

FREE COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT!

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- 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**

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Desert Rodents in Southern Arizona

Southern Arizona's desert is full of wildlife — but some creatures, like pack rats and house mice, can become unwelcome guests. Both cause property damage, spread disease, and create stressful infestations if not managed quickly.

Pack Rats (Woodrats)

Known for building large, messy nests from cactus pads, insulation, and wires, pack rats often set up in garages, attics, vehicles, or around desert plants. Their chewing can damage wiring, insulation, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs. Their nests can also attract fleas, ticks, and kissing bugs.

House Mice

These adaptable rodents prefer indoor spaces — walls, garages, and storage boxes —where they reproduce quickly and contaminate food with droppings and urine.

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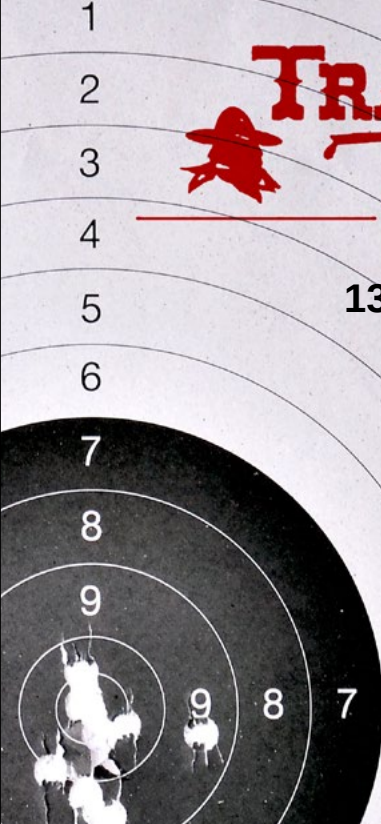
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Events

Saturday, Nov. 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.

Monday, Nov. 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

(with break) 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." Prof. Brescia examines the ways the diverse peoples, cultures, and environments have both collided and converged.

Beginning Nov. 5 (until December 12) the Art Wall at the Arizona Senior Academy* will feature oil paintings by Marianne Rowe, an award winning artist who resides in Academy Village. 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, Nov. 5, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Jibamitra "Jiba" Ganguly, Ph. D., Professor Emeritus, U of A Department of Geosciences, "Subduction of Oceanic Plates and Consequences for Earthquakes, Volcanism, and Ore Deposits." Prof. Ganguly will provide a brief overview of the interior of the earth and the theory of Plate Tectonics

Every Thursday, 7 p.m., 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.

Every Friday, 6 p.m. Celebrate Recovery meeting at Empire High School Library, 10701 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way. A fellowship for those dealing with any type of hurts, hang-ups and habits that are controlling their lives. Age 18 +.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Farmers Market. Activity Kitchen open for lunch 11 a.m. 8701 S Kolb Rd Exit 270-I10, Tucson, AZ 85756

Saturday, Nov. 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, Nov. 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!

Monday, Nov. 10, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Tuesday Nov. 11, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

VPS.** November Volunteer Meeting. St. Rita in the Desert Church, 13260 E Colossal Cave Rd, Vail, AZ 85641, St. Teresa Room. Topics include the Old Vail Post Office Restoration progress; the upcoming 19th Annual 'Tis the Season celebration; Pima County Pima Prospers draft. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Merrill Collett: author, former Zen monk; resident, San Francisco Zen Center and Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, "The Buddhist Superager: A Discussion." Merritt will emphasize the idea that perhaps the most mysterious paradox of being alive is that cultivating an awareness of death helps us live more expansively.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

RTA Next Plan Q&A Session at W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, 10931 E. Mary Ann Cleveland Way Tucson. Learn about the Regional Transportation Authority's \$2.67 billion RTA Next regional transportation plan

which Pima County voters will consider next March. The plan proposes improvements to reduce congestion and support cleaner air, enhance transportation network reliability, safety and efficiency, and expand transit, bike and pedestrian options. A presentation will be held at 6 p.m. followed by a Q&A session. Learn more: RTAnext.com

Friday, Nov. 14, 5 - 7 p.m.

The monthly Son's of the American Legion Chicken Fried Steak dinner returns. Custom made chicken fried steak, fresh mashed potatoes and gravy, whole green beans, unlimited N/A beverages, and a selection of three flavors of cobbler. Eat-in or take-out, we are here to serve what many consider the best CFS in Tucson. Dinner is served at AL Post 109, located at 15921 S. Houghton Road, just north of Sahuarita Road, in Corona de Tucson, from 5-7PM. Remember, every dinner sold helps us serve more free dinners to veterans and first-responders!

Friday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Don "Nod" Nottingham Duo brings Motown and Rhythm & Blues to the Arizona Senior Academy.

Saturday Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 12 n.

VPS.** Paint the Cut-outs! Help VPS prepare for the Holidays! Paint the cut-out figures, make angel wings and crowns for the Children's Las Posadas Procession. Meet at Old Vail Post Office Welcome & Heritage Center 13105 E Colossal Cave Rd, Vail, AZ 85641. All are welcome (encouraged!) to attend.

Monday, Nov. 17, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Keoki Skinner, former newspaper reporter and 30-year resident of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, "Four Decades in a Mexican Border Town: How I got Here and Why I Stayed."

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Friday, Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Bad News Blues Band returns for another rocking good time with West Coast jump blues - Mike Blommer (guitar), "Hurricane Carla" Brownlee (tenor & baritone

sax), Alex Flores (tenor sax), Steve Grams (bass), and Glen Velardi (drums).

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2 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

Monday, Dec. 1, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Jaye-Lynn Trapp, docent, Tucson Museum of Art, "Arthur Dove: Nature Symbolized." Docent Trapp will share how the artist Dove, a pioneer of abstract painting in early 20th Century America, used the emotional power of color and line to express natural forms, sounds, and musical motifs.

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

ASA* Concert: An evening performance with guitarist Gabriel Ayala, member of the Yaqui people of Southern Arizona, who combines his background as a classical guitarist with his unique JazzzMencho style. Gabriel brings his 5-piece band to the ASA!

Saturday Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

VPS.** 19th Annual 'Tis the Season Celebration! Old Vail Post Office Welcome & Heritage Center 13105 E Colossal Cave Rd, Vail, AZ 85641. 2:00: The Vail Chorale with Holiday music and caroling. 3:00: Children's Las Posadas Procession. 3:30: Mariachis! 4:30: Santa arrives on the Rincon Express! Kick off the Holidays with us on this fun afternoon!

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Arizona Women's Chorus presents selections from their Fall Concert "Remembrances," celebrating 40 years of singing together.

*ASA. *The Arizona Senior Academy*

**VPS. *The Vail Preservation Society*

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



Heat Optimist Club Honors Local Sheriff

The Heat Optimist Club honored Sheriff Deputy Jared Ernest at their September meeting. Deputy Ernest received the Respect for Law Award, given annually to a deserving member of law enforcement. Deputy Ernest is the Lead Motor Deputy for the Pima County Sheriff's Department. A central part of Deputy Ernest's service is his role in training and education. Deputy Ernest is the organizer and host of the Pima Regional Motor Academy, a month-long, labor-intensive program that certifies new motor deputies.



Left to right, Deputy Villicana and Deputy Ernest

Equally committed to community service, Deputy Ernest regularly participates in youth and outreach programs, including school events, Shop with a Cop, Trunk-or-Treat, and the Badges and Backpacks program, all of which foster trust

and positive connections between law enforcement and the community.

In every capacity—whether as an instructor, mentor, DUI enforcement specialist, or community partner—Deputy Jared Ernest goes well beyond the expectations of his role.

Center. Guests are welcome. Visit our website <https://heatoptimistclub.org> for more information about our organization.

By Marcia Aurand
Board Member, Heat Optimist Club

The Heat Optimist Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at Denny's in the Houghton Town





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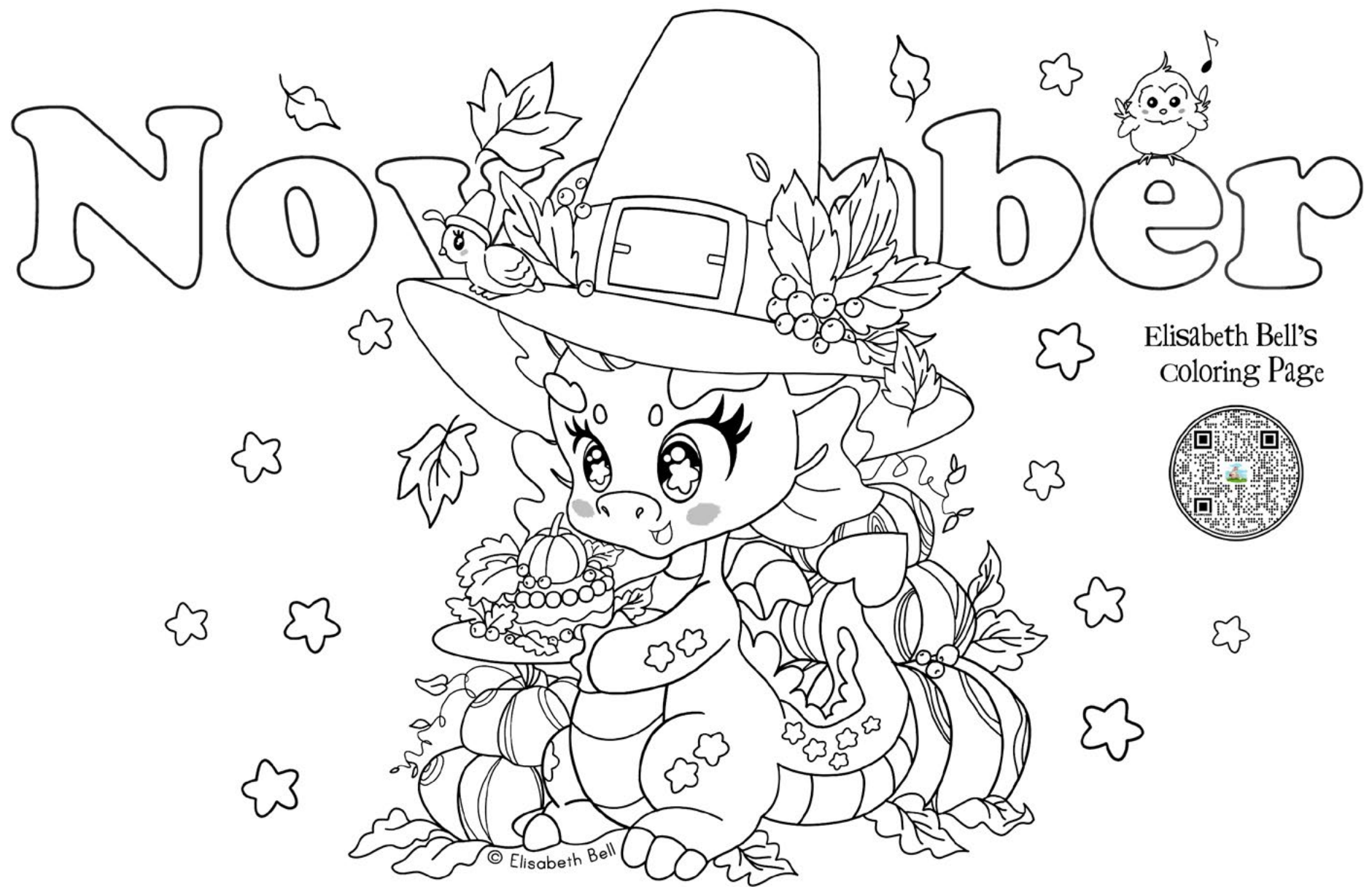
Free consultation for you or your teenage student athlete. Email us!

team@mindtrainingsystem.com





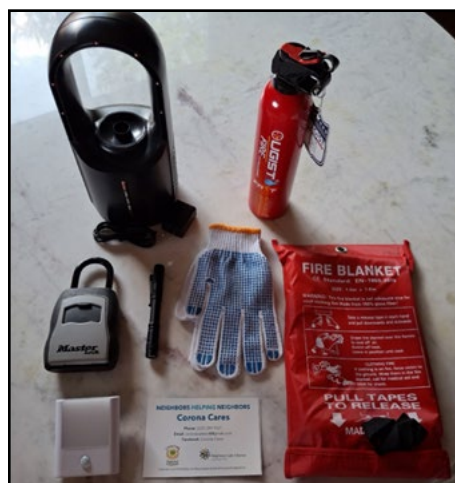
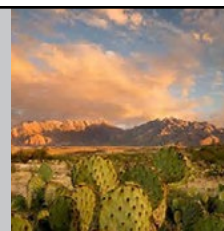
November, 2025 - Time to color!



Elisabeth Bell's
Coloring Page



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provided by the Artist.



Corona Cares Recieves Trico Grant

Corona Cares was fortunate to receive a grant from Trico. The funds were used to supply the recipients and volunteers with a home safety kit. The kit contained a fire extinguisher, fire blanket, night light, pen flashlight, and bladeless fan. This should protect them for some of the unforeseen emergencies that may occur.

By Ellie Abraham



Adopt-A-Road, Fellowship Day, The Bald Barber and Road Cleanup

To our Incredible volunteers who joined us for our Adopt-A-Road Cleanup along South Houghton Road on 09/27/2025

Fellowship At Post 109

Fellowship resumed at Post 109 in the month of September. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. is an opportunity to meet your neighbors and socialize. There are games of cards, dominoes, and chatting. The auxiliary serves a light lunch for a small fee. Take the time to get out and enjoy the camaraderie.



The Bald Barber

American Legion Post 109
Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome!

Corona de Tucson now has a local barber for all your tonsorial needs. Bert, the Bald Barber, has set up shop at the American Legion Post 109 in his trailer parked on the north parking lot. Stop by to support one of our new, local businesses.



Sycamore & Corona Foothills Schools Cleanup 10/04/2025



The Vail Chorale Presents Just for the Fun of It! November 8th & 9th

We cordially invite the Greater Vail Community to attend the Vail Chorale's Fall 2025 Concert, "Just for the Fun of It!" Two performances are scheduled, on Saturday November 8th at 3:00 p.m. at Del Webb at Rancho del Lago Community Center, 10260 S. Blendu Way in Vail, and on Sunday November 9th at 3:00 p.m. at the Arizona Senior Academy, 13715 E. Langtry Lane, off Old Spanish Trail.

The Vail Chorale is Greater Vail's intergenerational community chorus, presenting Spring and Fall concerts since its inception in 2011, entertaining loyal and new fans as we share the joys of choral music. This Fall's concert includes fun songs, some quirky, some amusing, some you may never have heard. Selections include "Would You Like to Swing on a Star?" "The Lobster Quadrille," Seal Lullaby," "The Banana Boat Song," "Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend," "Pure Imagination," and the PDQ Bach madrigal "My Bonnie Lass She Smelleth." (Yes, you read that right!)

The Chorale concerts are open to the public free of charge. Bring your friends and family and let's have some fun! Donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information, see www.thevailchorale.org, or contact thevailchorale@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

By Leslie Nitzberg and Martie Maierhauser

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A Chassidic Perspective on Tithing

There's a Jewish practice called maaser giving ten percent of what you earn to charity. On paper, it doesn't make much sense. Work hard for your money, then give a chunk of it away? And yet, this ancient idea has a strange way of flipping our outlook on life.

In Jewish life, giving maaser a tithe of our income to charity is more than just generosity. It's a sacred partnership with Hashem. The Torah promises that when we give, we don't lose; in fact, we open the channels of blessing. As our Sages teach, "aser bishvil she'tisasher" - tithe so that you will become wealthy.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe often emphasized that giving charity is not only about helping others. It transforms the giver as well. Every dollar we earn has spiritual energy in it. By setting aside a tenth, we elevate our earnings and make them part of something eternal.

From a Chassidic lens, tzedakah (charity) is unique among mitzvot: while prayer and Torah study are spiritual acts, tzedakah (charity) involves the material world. We take the fruits of our hard work money that could buy food, clothing, comfort and we use it to bring kindness and holiness into the world. That is why the Rebbe referred to tzedakah (charity) as "the mitzvah that hastens redemption." It brings G-dliness down into the most practical corners of life.

For many, giving a tenth feels daunting. But the Rebbe encouraged people to see it as an oppor-



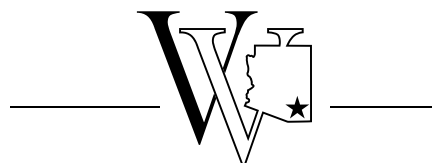
tunity, not a burden. Maaser (tithe) is not losing 10% it is investing in a Divine guarantee of blessing, both spiritual and material.

I've seen it firsthand. The moment you shift from "what do I get?" to "what can I give?" life feels fuller. The act of writing that check or clicking that donate button is small, but the ripple effect is enormous.

So if you've never tried it, start small. Test it out. Give with an open hand and see what happens. Chances are, you'll discover that when you give away 10%, you end up with more than 100% back—in blessings, in joy, and in meaning.

If you have any questions or comments you can email me at rabbi@jewishvailaz.com or at www.jewishvailaz.com

Rabbi Shemtov, ordained at the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown, New Jersey, has served as a student rabbi in communities across the world. Including in Bulgaria, Wyoming, South Dakota and California where he has led educational and holiday programs. He has taught children through Torah Tutors, an online Jewish studies platform.



PERSPECTIVES

A Living History

Native American culture is a part of our day-to-day lives, whether we consciously realize it or not. In fact, our government system we use today, democracy, is something we took from the natives—the idea of a system where power is distributed among a central authority and smaller political groups. Most of the things we do in our day-to-day lives were taken from the natives in this country. When people think about November, they usually only think about Thanksgiving, but it's also National Native American Heritage Month.

The history of the month goes back not too far. The month began as a day, then evolved into a week, and finally became officially a month. It was recently added to in 2009 by President Obama to include Alaska Natives. New York was the first state to recognize and declare an "American Indian Day" in 1916. It wasn't until 1990 that George H.W. Bush signed into law that November be celebrated as National American Indian Heritage Month.

There's usually a theme for each year, but due to the government shutdown, I am not fully aware if this is the theme. From what I did see, this year's theme should be, "Walking in their Footsteps, carrying forward the legacy of strength and sovereignty." The theme for 2024 was "Weaving together our past, present, and future." For the theme, they focused on the federal and Indian Boarding schools. Working on the intergenerational trauma Native people still face. With what the theme seems to be, I have done some research on the tribes that have been here in Tucson.

One of the tribes in Tucson is the Tohono O'odham. Tohono O'odham, which translates to "desert people," is the second-largest Native American reservation in the United States. They have been living in the region for a thousand years. As stated by visittucson.org, "Archaeological evidence suggests that Paleo Indians may have first inhabited the Tucson area some 12,000 years ago. Later, between 300 and 1,500 AD, the Hohokam inhabited this area, making Tucson the oldest settlement continuously inhabited in North America." The reason I bring this up is due to the fact that the Tohono O'odham see themselves as the direct descendants of the Hohokam.

Some of the traditions of the Tohono O'odham include basket weaving, being a part of the gaming industry, including owning the "Desert Diamond Casino," and their framing practices, like the "month of the wash." This is a practice where the Tohono O'odham plant seeds in the month of the washes after heavy rain. They would grow crops such as beans, corn, melons, and squash along the Santa Cruz River. You can try some of the Tohono O'odham at the Cafe Santa Rosa.

Another tribe here in Tucson is Pasca Yaqui. The Pasca Yaqui are descendants of the Yaqui people from the Rio Yaqui in Sonora, Mexico. Their traditions consist of framing as well, but they are also very well known for their arts. Some of the arts include pottery, basket weaving, and jewelry.

This month, dive into the tribes of your local area and around the world. As said by firstnations.org, "Sure, warm up with a pumpkin spice latte, but remember that pumpkin is an indigenous food from North America." Think about the things you consume on a day-to-day basis and the history behind it. Plant crops, watch documentaries, go to in-person and

"Perspectives"
continued on page 32

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!

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	5	4			1			2	
B			3			8			1
C	8					9	6		
D	1					5			
E		7		8	3	6		9	
F				1					4
G			8	5					7
H	7			2			4		
I		3			8			5	6

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A									
B			4		6		8		
C	3	9		8	7	4		1	
D	8			2		6			3
E	1								2
F			3				4		
G	9			4	3	8			7
H		3		7	9	5		6	
I			7	6			3		

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A			9			2			5
B		4			9			3	
C	5			7			1		
D	9			1			6		
E		6			5			7	
F			5			6			2
G			3			5			6
H		2			4			8	
I	4			3			7		



Thank You

Vail School District Foundation is excited to announce that they have received a grant from the **H. Eugene and Ruth Jones Charitable Fund** held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. This grant will benefit students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in the performing arts in the Vail School District for the next 4 years. On behalf of our foundation, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for their generous grant in support of middle school performing arts. Their remarkable contribution will make a lasting impact—providing young students



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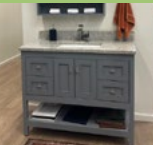


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**Local Couple Celebrates 75
Years of Marriage**

Anna and Owen Hunt celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on August 21st of this year. The couple met when she was in fifth, and he was in the eighth grade. They lost track of one another as they each advanced through primary school. Through a chance encounter, they saw each other again when Anna was 17, and knew they were in love. The couple eloped relatively quickly, as Owen was headed to the Air Force. Still focused on her education, Anna completed her high school degree in Hawaii. The newly married couple lived all over the world includ-

ing Europe and Asia. They settled in Arizona because Owen needed a dry climate for health reasons. Residents in Arizona since 1971, the couple have a son and daughter. Anna says the secret to a happy marriage is patience, on the part of both husband and wife, to weather the ups and downs of life.



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AZ DAILY STAR
READERS FAVORITE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA TORCH AWARD
ETHICS & CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE

"Perspectives" cont. from page 29
visual museums, read literature, help at community gardens, and donate to a Native-led nonprofit.

"A large part of Tucson's culture lies within the area's deep-rooted Native American history. Indigenous peoples have played a significant role in shaping the history and culture of Tucson, and continue to have a strong presence in the region today. Tucson received the city of Gastronomy distinction from UNESCO, because the food,

especially heritage ingredients, grown and harvested by the indigenous people of our region, tells the story of early agriculture that dates back at least 4,000 years." (Visittucson.org)

My name is Seán Colbert. I am working towards making my passion a reality. I love writing and being able to share that experience with others or telling stories. Writing is so important in the world and I want to be a part of that impact.

Word Search

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

AFRICA	GLORIA	NEVER	SUSSUDIO
ALWAYS	GUILTY	NOTORIOUS	THE FLAME
AMERICA	HEARTBREAKER	OUR HOUSE	THE LOOK
BEAT IT	HEAVEN	PASSION	THE ROSE
BROKEN WINGS	HOLD ME	PATIENCE	TIME
CALL ME	HUMAN	PINK HOUSES	TOO SHY
CONTROL	HUNGRY HEART	PURPLE RAIN	TRUE
CRUISIN'	INFATUATION	ROCK ON	TRULY
DOWN UNDER	KOKOMO	SAILING	TWO HEARTS
ENDLESS LOVE	LA BAMBA	SARA	VACATION
FAITHFULLY	LET'S DANCE	SATISFIED	VOICES CARRY
FAME	MAGIC	SHOUT	WE BELONG
FAST CAR	MANIC MONDAY	SONGBIRD	WHIP IT
FREEDOM	MONY MONY	SUKIYAKI	YOUR LOVE

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Gratitude Through Giving: Make a Significant Contribution to Alleviate Hunger

In this season of gratitude, there's no greater joy than knowing your generosity has helped a neighbor in need. At Greater Vail Community ReSources, we see the impact of giving every day at the Vail Food Bank — families able to put food on the table, children nourished and ready to learn, and seniors no longer forced to choose between groceries and medicine. If you're considering making a major contribution this year, your gift can create lasting change in the lives of those struggling with food insecurity right here in our community. There are many ways to make a meaningful impact — today and for the future.

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As an Arizona taxpayer, you can claim a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit for donations made to qualified charitable organizations like ours — up to \$495 for individuals or \$987 for couples filing jointly. It's an easy way to direct your tax dollars to help local families in need.

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Donating appreciated securities, such as stocks or bonds, can provide powerful support for our mission while offering tax advantages. By transferring these assets directly to ReSources, you may avoid capital gains tax and still claim a charitable deduction for the fair market value.

Smart Giving from Your IRA

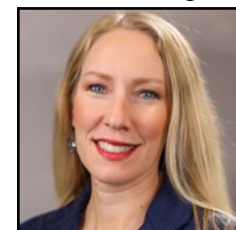
If you're 70½ or older, you can

make a tax-free charitable gift directly from your IRA. Known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), this contribution counts toward your required minimum distribution while reducing your taxable income. You can donate up to \$105,000 directly from your IRA. To Qualify for a QCD your check must be physically received by ReSources on or before December 31, 2025. It's an easy, impactful way to give — and see your gift at work in the community you love.

Leave a Legacy of Compassion

You can also create a legacy that feeds families for generations to come. Consider including Greater Vail Community ReSources in your will or trust, or name us as a beneficiary on a retirement account or life insurance policy. These legacy gifts ensure your values live on, continuing the work of fighting hunger and building hope for years to come. Please consult your tax professional while considering your options. To learn more or make a gift, visit www.ReResourcesVail.org or contact Callie Tippet at 520-210-7415. Your generosity is a gift of hope — and a reason for all of us to be thankful.

Callie Tippet is the Director of Development & Community Outreach for Greater Vail Community ReResources. She moved to Vail in 2002 and serves as a Governing Board member in VUSD. She is focused on supporting children and families in Vail.



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Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

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

FEBRUARY SHOW
February 28th & March 1st
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(Golf Links and Pantano)
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Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM



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Reframing Works of Art

A large, colorful statue of a Buddhist deity, likely a Bodhisattva, wearing elaborate armor and a crown, with a raised right hand holding a small object. The statue is adorned with intricate details, including a multi-tiered crown and a large, ornate blue and red sash. The background is a dark, textured wall with faint, colorful murals.

When you look at art in a museum, someone's home, or at your favorite haunt, you're judging there too. It's easy to hear our "I like that" or "That's not my thing" about other art and brush it off. When it's about ourselves, we tend to take it to heart too readily. You may have concluded that some part of you is faulty and rejected it as unworthy or inept. Whether we're evaluating our body, mind, or soul, it's



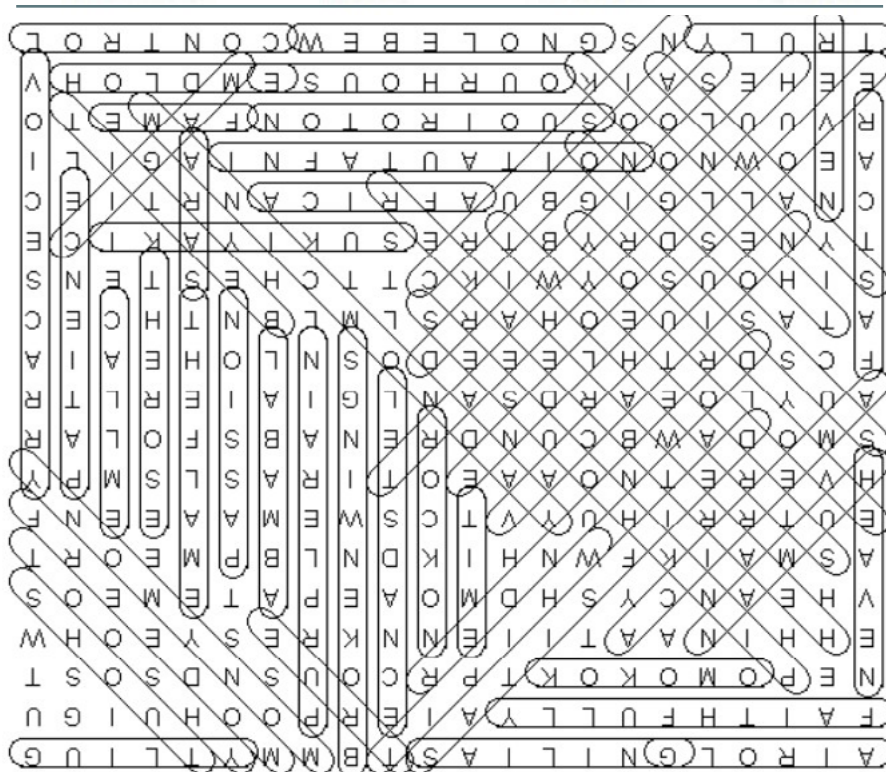
Simply by being, we articulate the divine dance. We are creations of heavens down to the tiniest particle of our being. We are meant to communicate from the depths of our consciousness in order to enunciate the substance of the universe. What for? Well, that's up to you, but consider that your unique essence is a distillation of the whole-- the entirety of all there is. Maybe you are concentrated divinity. If you are, what deific actions are meant to pour through you in this life? How can you make your life a piece of art? What invigorating endeavor do you choose to execute?

Hollie Warnick is a Behavioral Kinesiologist and Reiki Master utilizing behavioral health concepts.



The hidden song is: I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES

AFRICA	GLORIA	NEVER	SUSSUDIO
ALWAYS	GUILTY	NOTORIOUS	THE FLAME
AMERICA	HEARTBREAKER	OUR HOUSE	THE LOOK
BEAT IT	HEAVEN	PASSION	THE ROSE
BROKEN WINGS	HOLD ME	PATIENCE	TIME
CALL ME	HUMAN	PINK HOUSES	TOO SHY
CONTROL	HUNGRY HEART	PURPLE RAIN	TRUE
'CRUISIN'	INFATUATION	ROCK ON	TRULY
DOWN UNDER	KOKOMO	SAILING	TWO HEARTS
ENDLESS LOVE	LA BAMBAA	SARA	VACATION
FAITHFULLY	LET'S DANCE	SATISFIED	VOICES CARRY
FAME	MAGIC	SHOUT	WE BELONG
FAST CAR	MANIC MONDAY	SONGBIRD	WHIP IT
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When a Small Loan Makes Big Financial Sense

When a Small Loan Makes Big Financial Sense

Loans are often linked to major milestones like buying a home, financing a car, or paying for school. But smaller loans can also play a valuable role in managing day-to-day finances. They're designed for life's in-between moments like the unexpected expenses, busy seasons, or times when cash feels tight but long-term debt isn't the answer.

Used thoughtfully, a short-term personal loan can help maintain stability without turning to high-interest credit cards or draining savings. It's a straightforward option for those who value structure, predictability, and a little financial breathing room.

Rethinking Everyday Borrowing

A small loan can act as a financial reset, helping you organize competing expenses. Members often use them to:

- Consolidate smaller balances into one payment
- Plan for seasonal costs that don't fit a monthly budget
- Cover short-term expenses while preserving savings
- Build or establish credit through on-time payments

Borrowing with intention turns debt into a manageable tool rather than a fallback.

thevailvoice.com

When a Small Loan Helps Most

Planning for the Holidays

The holidays can challenge even the best budgets. Travel, gatherings, and gifts add up, and many rely on credit cards to fill the gap, often leading to lingering balances. The Hughes Holiday Loan offers a smarter solution: a short-term, fixed-rate loan that provides clear limits, predictable payments, and peace of mind. Members use it to handle seasonal spending without tapping savings or increasing credit card debt.

Covering Unexpected Expenses

A car repair, medical bill, or sudden trip can appear without warning. A small loan spreads the cost over time, protecting your monthly budget from taking the full hit.

Moving Away from High-Interest Debt

Credit cards offer convenience but come with steep rates. Replacing those balances with a lower-rate personal loan helps you pay off debt faster with fixed payments and a clear payoff date.

Protecting Your Savings

Saving takes time and effort, and one large expense can erase progress. A short-term loan helps you cover costs in installments instead of dipping into emergency or long-term funds.

When Borrowing Might Not Fit

A loan may not be right if pay-

ments already feel unmanageable, income is uncertain, or the expense can be delayed. Reviewing your budget or using MoneyCoach can help create space before adding another payment.

Predictable Payments, Clear Progress

Fixed-rate loans remove the uncertainty of revolving credit. You know your total amount, payment, and payoff date — making budgeting simpler and less stressful.

The Hughes Holiday Loan

- Borrow \$1,000–\$10,000
- Fixed interest rate for the full term
- Flexible terms up to four years
- Predictable monthly payments

Steady Progress, Not Quick Fixes

Financial balance comes from small, intentional choices. A well-structured personal loan can help you stay organized, avoid high-interest debt, and protect the goals you've worked toward all year.

The Hughes Holiday Loan offers members a simple, low-rate path to financial stability this season. Learn more at HughesFCU.org/HolidayLoan





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Unwrap the Magic of the Season

This year, focus on what really matters, making memories, not financial stress.

With a Holiday Loan from Hughes Federal Credit Union, you'll have the freedom to cover gifts, travel, or entertaining with ease.

- Borrow from \$1,000 to \$10,000
- Great fixed rate
- Flexible terms up to 4 years
- Quick approvals and an easy application

Enjoy the holidays your way with a loan that keeps your budget on track.

We take you further.



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HughesFCU.org
520-794-8341

Insured by NCUA. Certain restrictions apply. All loans are subject to approval. Contact Hughes Federal Credit Union for additional information.

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