



March Events!
 3/18 Daylight Savings
 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
 3/29 Palm Sunday
 See Events on pg. 21!
 Word Search
 on Page
24
 Answer Key: Pg. 27

THE

MARCH 2026

Your Hometown Newspaper

PRESORT STANDARD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Tucson, AZ
 PERMIT No. 1710
 ECRWSSDDM
 Postal Customer

VAIL VOICE™

Proudly Serving South East Tucson, Corona de Tucson and Vail Since 2001

sales@thevailvoice.com • (520) 490-0654 • An Epiphany Communications, Inc. Publication

FREE

Community Strength and Shared Hope

In the tight-knit community of Vail, some traditions are born from grief but grow through love. On March 7th, Arby's on Old Vail Road will host the Third Annual Noah Nieto Fundraiser, a day-long event that transforms a local restaurant into a hub of support for families navigating the unthinkable: a childhood cancer diagnosis.



Featured: Broden Ala

the main event on March 7th, the Arby's location at 10115 E. Old Vail Road is rallying the community to benefit the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern Arizona. While the Vail location serves as the heart of the movement, donations are also being accepted at all participating Arby's of Southern Arizona locations.

Honoring Young Warriors
 This year's fundraiser shines a light on two local students whose resilience has inspired their peers. Broden Ala, a high school student and avid mountain biker, saw his life shift in Fall 2023 after a simple fall revealed osteosarcoma. Following nine months of chemotherapy and complex rotationplasty surgery, Broden's journey has

"Headline Story" cont. on page 6

From February 2nd leading up to



The Nature of Game Time

March brings a season of anticipation and excitement across Tucson. At Rocking K, every season unfolds against the backdrop of the Rincon Foothills, where open space, gorgeous views and great neighbors are the home team advantage!

80 floor plans • 17 model homes • 6 quality builders
 Move-in ready homes available from the \$300s

LiveRockingK.com



Don't forget to vote on BOTH PROP 418 and PROP 419.

Mail your ballot in by March 3, 2026.

Or drop your ballot off at 6920 E. Broadway by 7 pm on March 10, 2026.

ROCKING
 Designed by Nature

Del Webb
 ROCKING K
 520-447-4454
 11 Floor Plans

D-R HORTON
 America's Builder
 520-412-2204
 6 Floor Plans

LENNAR
 520-399-7923
 28 Floor Plans

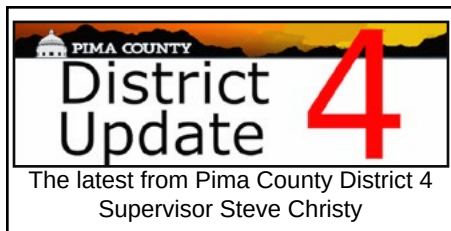
mattamy HOMES
 520-447-4273
 3 Floor Plans

Meritage Homes
 844-880-4655
 14 Floor Plans

Moderne
 AT ROCKING K
 623-303-0659
 10 Floor Plans

RICHMOND
 AMERICAN HOMES
 520-498-4105
 8 Floor Plans





Have you ever found yourself fantasizing about how you would spend the money if you won one of those mega-lotteries?



Of course, we all have. Especially when there are breathtaking media announcements detailing the amount of money to be won. As usually happens, however, someone reminds us that, if we do win, what the tax liabilities on those winnings will be and our actual net proceeds. Add to that the friends, relatives, and other folks who chime in with fun and exciting ways to spend the money and investment ideas. We are then brought back to earth.

In many ways, the sale of the 290 acres of county-owned land just north of the Pima County Fairgrounds resembles winning the lottery. This land has been sitting there producing nothing, servicing nothing, providing nothing, and contributing nothing to our county's property tax base or populace. No great paying jobs have been created and no income has streamed from it into any Pima County projects or its general fund.

Fast forward, without relitigating past events, and the sale of that property has closed and the county now finds itself with an almost \$21 million lottery (like) winning ticket. Let the spending fantasies begin! Throughout Pima County, everyone from residents to elected officials are opining as to how that \$21 million should be spent.

The irony of this should not be lost

on us. A number of people who were against the sale of the property and rejected its annexation into the City of Tucson are now making unsolicited suggestions as to how, where, when, and why the county's sale proceeds should be spent. The unfortunate part is that this causes unrealistic hopes and expectations that could raise the specter of past controversy and divisiveness.

A case in point - Esmond Station Regional Park. Our southeast region, as we all know, is vastly underserved, lacking viable and substantial Parks and Recreations facilities. Edmond Station Regional Park has been a long-wished-for dream for decades, and a greatly needed one at that.

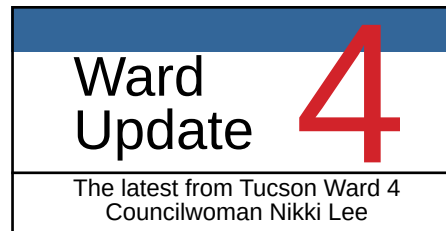
Here is the irony. While the Esmond Station Regional Park land is owned by Pima County, it is located entirely within Tucson's city limits. Sadly, the city has been silent and unavailable in contributing anything toward the creation of Esmond Station Regional Park.

The City of Tucson had the opportunity to annex the county's 290 acres into the city, reaping the benefit of the associated taxes, along with the multi-million-dollar investment in infrastructure offered by the developer. However, the City of Tucson turned down the entire annexation package and forfeited the proceeds it would bring with it. Perhaps some of this additional revenue could have contributed to the creation of Esmond Station Regional Park.

Now, the same folks who rejected the development package are trying to insert themselves in determining how the monies from the county land sale will be spent, much like the lottery scenario.

This leads us to the "back to earth" lottery reality. There is a set process in place as to how the \$21 million sale proceeds will be spent throughout the county and

"Steve Christy" continued on page 5



Our Moment to Address the Roads We Use Every Day



By now, you have received your ballot for Propositions 418 and 419, the RTA Next plan and the extension of the existing half-cent sales tax. Some of you have already voted, and I sincerely thank you for being engaged. For those who are still deciding, I want to speak directly to our community here on the southeast side.

Out here, roads are not theoretical. They are daily life. Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Colossal Cave Road, and Houghton are the corridors that move our families, support our jobs, and ensure first responders can reach us when we need them most.

The RTA Next plan includes widening Mary Ann Cleveland to four lanes through both the City and County portions, along with intersection and drainage improvements. It includes widening Colossal Cave Road and adding a grade-separated rail-

road crossing, which is critical as growth continues and congestion increases. That investment also helps unlock nearly 2,000 acres of already-zoned state land that could support future job creators and expand our local tax base.

In addition to these major corridor projects, the plan includes \$177.6 million for pavement rehabilitation on existing arterial and collector roads, with the potential for up to \$80 million more. That means curb-to-curb reconstruction and rehabilitation of key roadways we use every day.

- Nikki



Looking to Get Noticed?

Advertise Here!

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



THE VAIL VOICE | thevailvoice.com

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

CERVANTES LANDSCAPING

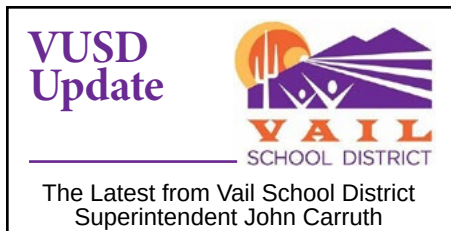
Miguel Cervantes OWNER

- Free Estimates • Fair Pricing
- Fast and Friendly Service

Available Services:

ONE TIME CLEANUP
MONTHLY, WEEKLY MAINTENANCE
TREE TRIMMING

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



It is tax season and many of us are in the throws of finalizing and submitting our own taxes. While it's a spring-time task that I don't look forward to, it is necessary. As such, I thought this would be a good time to write to you about our district's fiscal commitment to you - our community. Paying taxes after all underpin necessary and important services that we all depend on.



In the Vail School District, one of our guiding principles states, "We are committed to fiscal responsibility. We use public resources to provide a quality education for our students. Priorities are developed based on student needs, legal responsibilities, and cost-effective methods." Exercising fiscal responsibility while providing the highest quality product is who we are.

The Vail School District provides some of the highest quality school choices in Arizona. From pre-school through high school parents have school options that are high quality and highly rated. We take our responsibility of stewarding public tax dollars to deliver high quality schools very seriously.

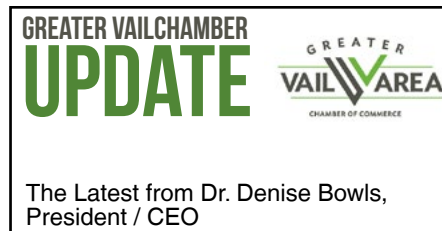
We are constantly searching for ways to invest wisely while being fiscally responsible to our community. School districts go to voters when bond dollars are needed to build new schools, make repairs and upgrades, etc. Once approved, those bonds are financed by investors who provide the cash loan with interest. Vail is currently looking into refinancing its current

bond debt to a lower interest rate that would save \$1.2 million over the course of the next ten years.

Taking steps like these enables the district to keep property tax rates declining. The secondary tax rate has steadily declined over the last five years from 7.1497 to 6.3367 for every \$100,000 of assessed value. In an inflationary economy, we are proud to report that our fiscally responsible practices are enabling us to deliver that tax rate cut to our community.

We also work to provide fiscal transparency. So, what has the district done with the bond money that was approved by voters in 2018? Vail listened to the community and then responded to the overcrowding in the schools and the rapid growth that was taking place. The District was able to put your approved tax dollars to work to build phase one of Mica Mountain High School, add an expansion to Andrada Polytechnic High School, and build Saguro Creek K8... all measures that enabled the district to act in line with the guiding principle, "We prefer small class sizes." Vail schools got a much needed networking upgrade to a high speed fiber optic network. A new library was built at Old Vail Middle School to replace the 35 year old modular library. Repairs to worn flooring and roofing, fields, playgrounds, and parking lots were made. The district's mechanic shop was expanded enabling us to more cost effectively make repairs. A few new student transportation vehicles were purchased.

Essentially, the Vail community's trust in the District enabled us to provide the high quality product you have come to know and expect in Vail. By any measure, Vail schools rank at the top of the list of quality schools across Arizona. Quality schools help build a strong community. A strong community helps ensure that our property values remain high. Thank you for **"John Carruth" continued on page 5**



The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls, President / CEO

From Good to Great: Building What Endures

Before we begin, I want to invite you into this conversation, not simply as readers, but as neighbors, business owners, and members of the community we call home. Take a quiet moment. Some reflections deserve our full attention.



Recently, I revisited Good to Great and Built to Last. As I turned those pages, I wasn't thinking about corporate boardrooms. I was thinking about Pima County.

When we step back and view our region as a whole, the city, unincorporated areas, surrounding municipalities, and tribal communities, we see more than potential. We see depth.

Our parks and open spaces are intentionally designed and actively used. School districts offer advanced academic pathways. The community college system serves both traditional students and working adults. Trade schools and universities provide opportunities in medicine, engineering, logistics, business, education, and the skilled trades, all without leaving the region.

That kind of educational ecosystem does not happen by accident.

We also see strength in our economic diversity: healthcare systems, construction and development, warehousing and logistics, military presence, tribal enterprises, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and public sector leadership at both city and county levels. This

diversity creates resilience. The professionalism of our business community builds stability.

Through that lens, Pima County demonstrates real strength and staying power.

In Good to Great, Jim Collins writes that greatness is rarely loud. It is built through disciplined people, disciplined thought, and disciplined action, applied consistently over time. Not dramatic reinvention, but clarity and steadiness. Built to Last reinforces that enduring institutions understand who they are. They honor their foundations while continuing to evolve. They grow without losing their core.

When we reflect on our region through that framework, we see many of those characteristics already present. Institutions with depth. Industries with staying power. Educational systems that continue to adapt. Leaders, both public and private, who invest for the long term. Growth that reflects confidence in our trajectory.

That is what endurance looks like.

Good regions expand. Great regions endure.

Enduring regions are marked by consistency, collaboration, and vision sustained over time. As a Chamber, our role is not to direct growth, but to strengthen the environment that supports it, to convene cross-industry conversations, connect education with workforce needs, and ensure the private-sector voice remains clear and constructive in long-term planning. Chambers exist to reinforce stability while encouraging thoughtful progress.

Pima County has built a foundation that reflects exactly that.

The steady work of building what lasts is worth continuing, together.

**"Dr. Denise Bowls"
continued on page 5**

Water Smarter, Not Harder

At Four Arrows Garden Center, one of the most common things we hear is, "I water all the time... so why does my plant still look stressed?" The answer usually isn't effort—it's strategy.

Desert plants don't want constant sips. They want deep, intentional watering that encourages roots to grow down into cooler, more stable soil. When watering happens too often and too lightly, roots stay near the surface, where soil heats up quickly and dries out fast. This makes plants more dependent, more stressed, and less resilient over time.

Watering smarter means watering less frequently but with enough volume to soak the root zone. For trees and shrubs, this means slow, deep watering that reaches 2'-3' below the surface. Deep roots equal stronger plants, better heat tolerance, and fewer watering issues as the seasons change.

Another key part of watering smarter is watering in the right place. As plants grow, their roots extend well beyond the original planting hole. Continuing to water right at the trunk doesn't support healthy root development. Instead, water should be applied around the drip line—the outer edge of the canopy—where active roots are growing.

Mulch also plays a huge role. A thick layer of mulch helps keep soil cooler, slows evaporation, and allows water to soak in instead of running off. In the desert, mulch isn't optional—it's one of the most effective water-saving tools you can use!

And finally, timing matters. Adjusting watering schedules seasonally—rather than sticking to the same routine year-round—can dramatically improve plant health while conserving water.



Watering smarter means understanding how desert plants grow and working with our environment, not against it.

Learn more about our FREE event on March 14 on the events page.

By *Linsay Chavez*
Owner, Four Arrows Garden Center
www.fourarrowsgarden.com



KUMON  → Preschool - High School
LEARNING CENTERS | Math and Reading Program

There's a New Kumon Center Near You!
practice makes possibilities™

Kumon Math and Reading Center of Tucson - Houghton & Broadway Rd

Serving Tucson East + Surrounding Areas

520-477-4994
shaque@ikumon.com
www.kumon.com/tucson-houghton-broadway-rd



Beautify Your Home with
PROFESSIONAL & DEPENDABLE LANDSCAPING AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

Landscape installations, One time clean ups, Irrigation system installs, landscape lighting & Irrigation repairs

520.326.7209
www.sonoranscapesinc.com

Free ESTIMATES **SONORAN SCAPES** LANDSCAPING INC.  

Servicing Tucson & Surrounding areas since 2000 ROC#256984



Origins: St. Patrick's Day

Originating in Ireland as a 17th-century religious feast day commemorating the death of St. Patrick (c. March 17, 461), he was the patron saint who brought Christianity to the country. Originally a quiet holy day, it evolved into a secular celebration of Irish heritage, with the first parade held in 1601 in Florida.

St. Patrick was not originally Irish; he was born in Roman Britain in the 4th century, kidnapped as a teen, enslaved in Ireland, escaped, and later returned as a missionary. He is credited with establishing churches, monasteries, and schools across Ireland, significantly spreading Christianity. Legends include him banishing snakes from Ireland (unlikely due to the climate) and using a three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to pagans. And while originally associated with blue, the color green became dominant around the time of the 1798 Irish Rebellion.

The first parades were not in Ireland, but held by Irish soldiers in the British Army in New York City (1762) and by a Spanish colony in Florida (1601). The holiday was transformed into a large-scale celebration of Irish culture by immigrants in the United States, particularly as a way to express ethnic pride.

For centuries, it was a strictly religious day in Ireland, with pubs closed, before shifting to the modern, festive celebrations seen today.

Encyclopedia Britannica



Did you know the BEST Garden Center in Tucson is right here in Vail?!

Plan your visit, join our Bloom Club, view free gardening classes & more!

FourArrowsGarden.com/VailVoice



"Steve Christy" cont. from page 2
 its five supervisorial districts. Each district will receive a share of the proceeds.

So, before we begin planning our wish lists, we need to stop jumping to conclusions and let the process and protocols unfold. Obviously, your District 4 office has been advocating front and center and will continue to do so.

I can tell you that there are some intensive talks and plans in the works regarding Esmond Station Regional Park. They are in the formative and preliminary stages but are promising to be very exciting and comprehensive. Obviously, it is too soon to be discussing them as there are many moving parts. Here again, your District 4 team has a seat at the table and continues to be actively engaged. The details will be forthcoming.

On another note, I had the honor of marching in the "dignitary" section of the parade opening of the always terrific Vail Pride Day at the Pima County Fairgrounds last month, accompanied by members of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Escorting me was Andrada Cadet Lt. Isaac Kusch. He was an impressive young man and I was proud to march with him. Plus, he informed me that he was a recipient of a six-figure NROTC national scholarship award. How impressive is that! Congratulations, Isaac.

Joining me was our other District 4 team dignitary, Southeast Region Representative Erin Johnson, who was escorted by none other than her very own daughter, Cienega Cadet Commander Ella Johnson. Ella was equally as impressive and both students are wonderful representatives of our community and make us all very proud and thankful for their service!

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

"John Carruth" cont. from page 3
 that continued trust. It is deeply valued.

If you have any questions about your Vail School District tax rates, please feel free to call the number on your tax statements for clarification. Our Chief Financial Officer is happy to assist you.

Yes, Vail, like homeowners, works to exercise caution in spending and to find the most fiscally responsible means to manage its finances.

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.

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



www.rinconvalleystorage.com

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



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

"Denise Bowls" continued from page 3

If we believe in building what endures, then collaboration cannot be optional. Business leaders, educators, public officials, and residents must remain at the same table. That is where chambers are most effective, creating alignment, elevating solutions, and supporting thoughtful, long-term progress.

The work ahead is not about dramatic change. It is about disciplined progress. And we invite every business and community partner to continue building that future together.

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




VAIL PLUMBING
 LICENSED BONDED AND INSURED
 ROC CR37 312941

OVER 75 YEARS' INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE
520-207-7224
OFFICE@VAILPLUMBINGAZ.COM

Owned and operated by Allen Schwartzberg

VAIL'S LOCAL PLUMBER
 Whatever your dilemma, don't hesitate to call.

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

WWW.VAILPLUMBINGAZ.COM



FINANCING AVAILABLE
 MEMBER GREATER VAIL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3 Reasons TO FOSTER WITH INTERMOUNTAIN TODAY



- 1 I believe that every child deserves a safe, loving home.
- 2 I care about the children in our community.
- 3 My experiences, ideas, and knowledge are valuable. It's time to give back.

There are not enough homes in Arizona for children and siblings.



INTERMOUNTAIN FOSTER CARE

CALL US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION
 (833) 528-0182

"Headline Story"
continued from page 1
been bolstered by the support of
Candlelighters.

"Beverley from Candlelighters
reached out with genuine care,"
says Broden's mother, Kristi. "It's
comforting to know there's a com-
munity to lean on."

The event also honors 14-year-old
Jose Preciado-Hamilton, who is
currently facing his second battle
with cancer. Despite the grueling
balance of school and treatment,
his mother, Meghan, describes
him as the strongest person she
knows. "He still finds the beauty
in everything," she says. For the
Hamilton family, Candlelight-
ers has provided more than just
household items or holiday help;
they provided connections to other
parents who truly understand the
struggle.

A Legacy of Giving

The fundraiser is named in mem-

ory of Noah Nieto, an Empire
High School student-athlete who
passed away in 2020 at the age
of 17. Noah's legacy continues to
provide a "glass-half-full" perspec-
tive for others.

"This event keeps Noah's memo-
ry alive and helps Candlelighters
assist other families," says Jami
Salyers, VP of Operations for Irish
Beef, LLC. Last year alone, the
community raised over \$33,000,
bringing the two-year total to near-
ly \$50,000.

Event Details

The community is invited to visit
the Vail Arby's on March 7th from
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Arby's will
donate 25% of the day's sales to
Candlelighters. Attendees can also
participate in a silent auction and
enjoy a day dedicated to solidarity.




**EVERY YARD NEEDS
A HERO**

Artificial Grass
Pavers & Patios
Landscapes
Irrigation
Maintenance
Tractor Services

VAIL LANDSCAPE BUILDERS

(520) 308-7000
vailandscapebuilders.com




A Man Of The Soil LLC Company Est. 1974 ROC 349400 CR21



Care Close to Home in Vail!

- Primary Care
- Behavioral Health
- Pediatrics
- Discount Pharmacy
- Lab Services
- Women's Care

UCHC at Vail Middle School

13299 E. Colossal
Cave Road
Vail, AZ 85641
(520) 762-5200

Now accepting new patients!



¡Se habla español!

From toddlers to grandparents, we've been a trusted community health partner for Southern Arizona families for over 40 years.

UCHC UNITED COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Serving Southern Arizona Since 1983

learn more about us uchcaz.org



BEGINNING 20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
to boundless

NEW East Side Location
FOR GRADES 2-5

TUCSON GIRLS CHORUS

REGISTRATION & MORE INFO AT
www.tucsongirlschorus.org

WED 4:45-5:45PM (grades 2-3)
WED 5:30-6:45PM (grades 4-5)



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 230 words or less. 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!**

Dear Editor,

Hooria Jazaieri suggests, "Compassion can be thought of as an orientation towards suffering that includes four components: recognizing that there is suffering (cognitive), feeling emotionally moved by that suffering (affective), wishing there to be relief from that suffering (intentional), and a readiness to take action to relieve that suffering (motivational)."

In Exodus 2, when Moses saw a band of shepherds bully seven sisters, he saw the unfairness inflicted upon the young women (cognitive); he was bothered by the injustice (affective); he made a decision not to ignore it (intentional); and he came to their defense and watered their flock (motivational).

In his book, *Beautiful Souls*, Eyal Press tells the story of Paul Gruninger, captain of the police in St. Gallen, Switzerland. On April 3, 1939, Gruninger was fired for falsifying hundreds of documents to allow Jewish immigrants fleeing Hitler to enter Switzerland. Gruninger explained, "Whoever had the opportunity, as I had, to repeatedly witness the heartbreaking scenes of the people concerned, the screaming and crying of mothers and children, the threats and sui-

thevailvoice.com

Owner and Publisher

Lucretia Free
Lucretia@TheVailVoice.com

Editor

Editor@TheVailVoice.com

Photographer

Bel Coulson
photographybybel.com

Sales

Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654

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

cide and attempts to do it, could... ultimately not bear it anymore."

Gruninger saw the horror of Nazism (cognitive). He was heartbroken by the sufferers' cries (affective). He decided not to bear it any longer (intentional). He did what he could to save lives (motivational).

What might a heart of compassion compel us to do?

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

Vote "No" on Propositions 418 and 419. Vail faces a critical decision in the March 10, 2026, all-mail election: whether to approve Propositions 418 and 419. This would extend the CURRENT half-cent sales tax for another 20 years to fund the RTA Next plan, projecting \$2.67 billion for regional transportation.

I oppose these propositions not because I reject better roads or transit outright, but because the RTA's governance model has consistently shortchanged Green Valley. Since the original Proposition 400 in 2006, the half-cent tax was sold as a 20-year promise to fix roads, expand transit, and ease congestion countywide. Yet after

nearly two decades, Green Valley has seen remarkably few tangible benefits. Major projects have gone to Tucson (e.g., bus rapid transit priorities), Oro Valley, Marana, and even Sahuarita—while Green Valley and much of unincorporated southern Pima County remain underserved with incomplete or delayed improvements.

The RTA board—dominated by elected politicians from Tucson, Pima County, and towns like Sahuarita, Oro Valley, and Marana—has turned delivery into a quagmire of delays, infighting, and political favoritism. Examples abound: months-long standstills, a razor-thin 5-4 vote in June 2025 to oust the prior executive director, and key roadway segments (like parts of Houghton, Kolb, and Valencia) left unfinished or far behind schedule elsewhere. In our area, residents still deal with inadequate shoulders, poor drainage, and limited safety upgrades on local corridors, despite contributing sales tax revenue.

Demand accountability first.

Bobby Wilson

Dear Editor,

As the greater Vail area continues to grow, one issue remains constant, our roads are becoming increasingly congested. Roads are not just about commuting, they are critical for emergency response and evacuation during disasters. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has finalized RTA Next, a 20-year regional transportation plan that outlines 31 projects across Pima County. Two of those projects will directly impact the greater Vail area with both scheduled for the second (Fiscal Years 2032-2036) and third (2037-2041) periods of the RTA next plan.

The first is the Colossal Cave Road project, which will create a grade-separated crossing over the railroad tracks and expand the

roadway to four lanes. Anyone who lives or works in this area understands how our train crossings can delay and restrict access.

The second project will widen Mary Ann Cleveland Way between Houghton Road and Colossal Cave Road to four lanes, with added turn lanes, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improved drainage. This corridor is a vital east-west route and an important secondary access point for neighborhoods.

Assuming the RTA-Next Plan is accepted by voters, and once the projects in our area have been completed, we expect to see safer roads and improved response times.

Jim Tucker

Dear Editor,

When is the last time you were caught between the tracks on Colossal Cave Rd? When is the last time you were concerned about the traffic jams on Mary Ann Cleveland and the lack of sidewalks and bike lanes for our kids? When is the last time you were on I10 waiting to exit on Rita Road and felt your car swerve as a semi blew by at 80mph? These dangerous roads will be made safer with the passage of Propositions 418 and 419. RTANext will bring 400m in transportation investment to SE Tucson and the greater Vail Area. This not a partisan issue. It is a public safety issue.

Please vote.

Lucretia Free

Dear Editor,

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation - our Semiquincentennial ("quin-centennial" being 500 years, and "semi" halving that to 250; all the cool kids call it the Semiquin). It is my hope that our

**"Letters to the Editor"
continued on page 8**

March 2026

**"Letters to the Editor"
continued from page 7**

communities will see an increase in civic virtue this year in honor of our nation's quarter-millennial.

Everyone will commemorate the Semiquin in their own way, but I am saddened when the 4th of July becomes an occasion to merely disparage or despair of our nation, if only because the platform is provided by the event. After all, who would wait until a person's birthday just to insult them? True, our history contains much that is tragic and cruel, and it is our duty as citizens to be aware of our nation's faults so that we may redress them. But on a day such as the 4th (and especially the Semiquin), shouldn't we emphasize the promise and good of America over the failures and tragedies? Frederick Douglass himself recognized this at the conclusion of his famous 1852 speech, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"

As Richard Rorty stated, "National pride is to countries what self-respect is to individuals: a necessary condition for self-improvement." If we would hope for a better America, then let us manifest that hope through celebration and commemoration.

Alec Martin

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



Elevate Your Everyday

— Luxury Nails by a Licensed Pro

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

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

Because you deserve beautiful nails—done right

**Nails
By Kharemah**
Licensed Nail Technician
Home based / Mobile services
IG: *mrs.ks_nail*
(520) 907-3130



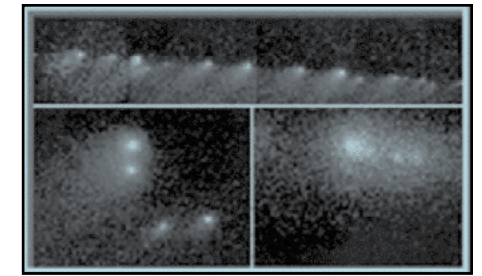
Skyward for March

A few minutes before midnight on 17 December 1965, I began a program of hunting for comets and exploding stars, or novae. I recall writing at the time that when I began, the interest would primarily be in comets. It still is, even though I independently discovered Nova Cygni 1975 (V1500 Cygni), and a second nova Cygni (V1668 Cygni) in 1978. I also remembered thinking that while discovering a comet is hard, searching for one is easy. I was 17 years old.

A few minutes before midnight on 17 December 2025, I completed sixty years of comet hunting. Years ago I proposed to Wendee that I might stop. Almost annoyed with me, she asked if I still enjoyed it as much as ever. Yes! "So why would you even consider stopping something that brings you so much joy?" Comet hunting still brings me as much delight as ever, and thus I continue to search whenever and wherever I can.

When I began, the sport seemed to be a good fit for my personality. I was quite shy and withdrawn as a kid, even more so as a teenager. Gravitating towards activities that kept me apart from other people, I even decided not to tell anyone, even my own family. As I grew older, my inhibition gradually faded. By the time I discovered my first comet in 1984, I had relocated to southern Arizona where clear nights were more the rule.

My program expanded momentarily when I joined the Shoemaker team. In 1991 we discovered seven comets together, plus a new periodic comet I found on



Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 just before its impact with Jupiter. NASA photograph.

my own. The following years, 1992 and early 1993, saw no new comets for me or for us. All that changed on 23 March 1993, when I loaded a film into the 18-inch diameter Schmidt camera at Palomar Mountain Observatory. Two days later Carolyn uttered her now-famous line, "I think I have discovered a squashed comet," that changed our lives forever. Gene died in an auto accident in 1997, and Carolyn passed away in 2021. I am the only one of our threesome that is left.

**"Skyward"
continued on page 23**



On The Move

Sydney Nieto of Vail, AZ was listed on The President's Honor Roll from The University of Wyoming.

Lauren Fields makes fall 2025 Dean's List at Saint Mary's University earning a grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Kapualani Magnani made the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Gavin Peterson of Vail, AZ has made the The University of Wisconsin-River Falls 2025 fall semester Dean's List. It honors 1,724 students.

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

2026 Pollinator Time

Attract pollinators to your garden the natural way, plant trees and shrubs that create habitats. Civano Growers has developed and locally grows a line of plants that honor our zone. Heat resistant, eco - friendly and they look great too! Look for our branded patented plants at our garden center.



Fertilize Trees & Shrubs

We generally need to fertilize three times a year in Arizona; around Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day (mid-February, mid-May to early June, and early September for specific varieties).



Mel L. Shipley ACNP



Civano Nursery is one of Arizona's largest plant growers - that's locally grown trees and shrubs for our zone!

Desert willow Sweet Bubba
Grown by Civano



Butterbloom turpentine
Grown by Civano



Red Hot Dwarf Tecoma
Grown by Civano



Laredo Texas Ranger
Grown by Civano



Stoplights dwarf yucca
Grown by Civano



Little Gold Star Tecoma
Grown by Civano



Plant locally grown trees and shrubs
Look for our Civano Original Brand



SPECIAL COUPON

\$5.00 Off over \$40.00 coupon code VV540

\$10.00 Off over \$70.00 coupon code VV1070

We Design, Deliver & Plant

Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per customer. Must have coupon. Not valid on prior sales. Other restrictions apply. Expires March 30th 2026

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

Way Back When

By Chuck Colbath

Having come from a family of educators, it was only natural that my parents looked for a home where there were good schools, much like those we have today here in Vail. I remember looking at homes in different towns that bordered Concord, New Hampshire, where my dad worked at the time. When I was eight they found a five bedroom colonial in Dunbarton Center, a picturesque little village on a ridgetop. It was built after the first few dwellings were burned in the Indian raids of 1746.

The house has an interesting history. In the early 1800's, it served as the Flying Dragon Tavern, a stage coach stop, and the first store and post office in town, about half a century before the first postage stamps were issued. At one point, two brothers split ownership down the middle, with



access to half the wood shed and half the out house!

By the way, the typical stagecoach model you see in western movies and television shows is the Concord Coach made by the Abbot-Downing Company in Concord N.H.

When I was young, our elderly neighbors mentioned the two prior owners of our house, a state senator, and before him a very old lumberjack, Will Caldwell. When Will resided there, the house did not have electricity, or heat other than fireplaces and a woodstove. We had a six lid, cast iron wood-burn-

ing cookstove, a Rumford brand made in Concord N.H., which was originally named Rumford. I remember my dad after shoveling snow, sitting with his feet covered in wet wool socks just inside the oven of that woodstove.

At Babilon we are striving to make these the good old days, and are aware that we will be remembered by the experiences our clients have in our shop. Just as it was important for my parents to find the right place for us to live, John and I, a little over 15 years ago found the right salon and filled it with stylists that are highly skilled and very nice folks who all have one thing in mind, providing a caring experience that is meant to leave an impression.

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

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

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

Better care, Better hair!



**BETTER CARE,
BETTER HAIR.**

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

SINCE 2011

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

BAVILON SALON



MOUNTAIN VIEW

ANIMAL CLINIC & PET HOTEL

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

*Where your pets
are family*

Now offering
pet boarding

(520) 762-0455

13750 E. Success Dr. Vail, AZ 85641

thevailvet.com



Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce

Influencing Vail's Future

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

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

**FRIDAY MAY 8
JAVELINA SCRAMBLE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

greatervailchamber.com

\$125.00	\$450.00	Fee Includes: 18 holes with cart, lunch, and two beverage tickets Hole contests throughout the day
One Player	Foursome	

Get More Info:
Call Stacy Winstyrg
520.870.5465

Del Lago Golf Club
14155 E Via Rancho Del Lago
Vail, AZ 85641

New Members

- The Fieldhouse
- Corona Heating & Cooling
- Copper Star Home Care
- DMC Aesthetics
- Well Woman 360, PLLC
- DeMont Family Swim School

Renewing Members

- Silver Roads Insurance
- Pioneer Title Agency
- Steamy Concepts
- Diamond Ventures Inc.
- Waves of Hope Swim Academy
- Diamond Wealth Management



greatervailchamber.com

There's a roomer going around, you may have a vacancy!



MR. PACK RAT



Call Now!
Schedule a
FREE Inspection

\$30 **.off**
Pack Rat Elimination



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



VAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) THAT PROVIDES POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR VUSD STUDENTS.

Scholarship Program Application Deadline 3/15/26

Open to all Vail School District Seniors!

Scholarships Available:

\$500 & \$1000 Resilience Scholarships; \$500 & \$1000 Service Scholarships; \$500 & \$1000 CTE Scholarships; \$1000 Northwest Medical Center Scholarship (Open to VUSD seniors entering the medical field); \$500 & \$1000 Jacob Hunter Dunaway Memorial Music Scholarships (Open to all VUSD orchestra & band seniors); (3) \$1000 Ethan Ardrey Project Scholarships (Open to VUSD seniors entering the field of mental health supports); \$1000 Joe De La Cruz Memorial Scholarship (Open to all VUSD seniors); \$1000 Jessica

De La Cruz Memorial Scholarship (Open to VUSD seniors entering nursing school or EMT training); (3) \$1000 Jami Carney Win the Day Scholarships (Open to VUSD seniors entering the education field); \$500 Friends of Esmond Station Library W. Anne Gibson Service Scholarship (Go to esmondfriends.org for more details); \$1500 Calvin Baker Leadership Scholarship (Open to VUSD seniors who have demonstrated exceptional leadership); \$500 Philanthropic Educational Organization, Chapter FC of Vail Scholarship (Open to any VUSD female seniors with a 3.0 minimum GPA & showing a level of resilience & financial need); \$500 American Legion McCulloch-Wagner Post 109 Scholarship (Open to VUSD seniors w/ a military parent or grandparent & 3.0 minimum GPA)

Submit Applications to: www.vsdfoundation.org
Questions? email us @ vailsdfoundation@gmail.com



Free, Trusted Tax Help Returns to Vail

ReSources Vail Food Bank is proud to once again partner with United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona to bring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program back to the Greater Vail community for the 2026 tax season.

For individuals and families earning \$89,000 or less per year (single or joint filers), VITA offers professional tax preparation completely free of charge. All returns are prepared by IRS-certified volunteers, ensuring accuracy, confidentiality, and peace of mind. There are no hidden fees, no surprise charges — just trusted support from trained community members who are here to help.

Services will be hosted in partnership with Vail Unified School District at the Old Vail Middle School Library, located at 13299 E. Colossal Cave Road in Vail. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm by appointment and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm by appointment and walk-ins welcome.

Last year marked the first time ReSources hosted VITA locally, and the response exceeded all expectations. While we anticipated serving 50 households, 98 households ultimately received assistance. Together, those families brought home \$79,225 in total refunds, including \$20,615 in Earned Income Tax Credits and \$8,669 in Child Tax Credits. These refunds made a real difference — helping families pay rent and utilities, purchase groceries, reduce debt, and build greater financial stability.



At ReSources, we believe in neighbors helping neighbors. Hosting VITA aligns with our broader mission of strengthening our community — not only by addressing immediate needs like food security, but also by connecting households to resources that promote long-term self-reliance. Tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit are powerful anti-poverty tools, and VITA ensures families receive every dollar they are entitled to.

If you or someone you know could benefit from free, reliable tax preparation, we encourage you to reach out. Scheduling an appointment will help reduce the wait. Let our volunteers help you file with confidence and keep more of your hard-earned money right here in our community.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please visit our website <https://resourcesvail.org/vita-tax-assistance/>.

By Liana Hicks
Food Bank
Manager



Tucson's Hidden Dental Gem



CIVANO DENTAL CARE



📞 520-838-0302 📍 10501 Seven Generations Way Suite 155

www.civanodentalcare.com

COMPLETE
POOL & YARD CARE

Weekly Pool Service
Equipment Repair & Install
Water Quality Experts

520-812-9388

www.completepoolandyard.com

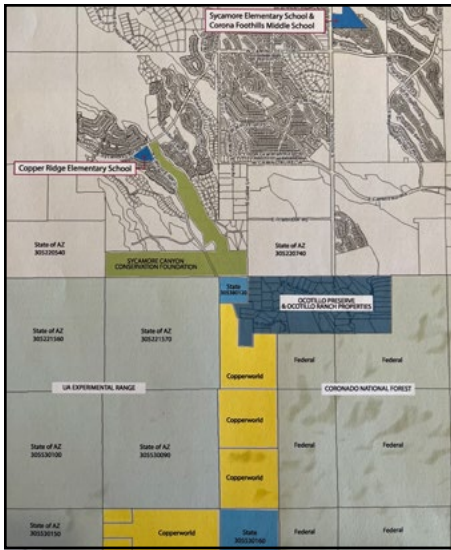
Del Toro Fence Solutions



- Licensed
- Bonded
- Insured

CONTACT
Martin Lyman
📞 (586) 260-3809
hotwirefencetucson.com

• Quality and Reliability You Can Trust •



Why Are We Fighting Copper World

Four years ago, I became aware of Copper World's plan when Hudbay put a note on my gate advising they were test drilling next to my property and they would try and be quiet. We contacted Save the Scenic Santa Rita's group and began learning everything we could about this rebranded Rosemont plan and how it would affect our community.

Today I want to show you a map we created using Pima Maps. Copper World uses many maps and they all cut off at the northern edge of their private property. Our map shifts further north, so you can see what they do not want you to see.

First, the yellow bar at the bottom left is the top of the "F" on their map. That is the tailings storage area they will use first. (Tailings are the waste rock they excavate with the minerals. Tailings contain toxic chemicals like lead, arsenic and cyanide, to name a few.)

To the right of that bar is a blue box. That is the 160 acre state land parcel that will be going up for auction on April 29th. Starting bid will be \$993,000. Hudbay owns the land on three sides of it, they will probably be the only bidder. They will pay a fraction of what it's worth to them.

Now we turn north to the three yellow boxes. That is Stone Springs ranch and about 500 acres that Hudbay owns. That is destined to become their third tailings storage area. (The second tailings dump is further south.)

I am in the Ocotillo Preserve area. There are about 100 residential properties there. We will be directly connected to this tailings dump. Then there's Sycamore Canyon subdivision with about 1000 homes. Copper Ridge Elementary is about 1.5 miles from them.

Anybody who has lived here more than a month knows about our winds and heavy rains during monsoons.

ADEQ has gifted them two permits with very few protections for us. This tailings area will be on the edge of Sycamore Canyon. There will be no liners underneath. They are not required to test for toxins until after two years of operations. Hudbay will be self monitoring with no required inspections. What could possibly go wrong?

I want to make you aware of how dangerous this mine will be to our community. We need to let our state decision makers know we are paying attention and care about what happens with our health, safety and property values. We should be a higher priority than a foreign mine! Please follow SSSR and our grassroots group on Facebook, NoCopperWorld to stay informed.

Cathy McGrath is a 27 year resident of Corona de Tucson. She and her husband moved out here for the peaceful solitude. They love wildlife and desert sunsets. "This community is special and worth protecting...for all the families that live here!"



WildBerryMD

WEIGHTLOSS | HORMONES | LONGEVITY

Medical Weight Loss for Women 40+

Addressing Hormones, Not Guesswork

Physician-guided medical weight loss and hormone optimization for women whose bodies have changed after 40.

We address underlying factors such as:

- Insulin resistance
- Stress hormones & cortisol
- Premenopausal & menopausal symptoms

✓ **Free Discovery Call**

✓ **\$30 Off Your First Program (Vail Voice Readers)**

✓ **100% Online Visits - From the Comfort of Your Home**

Call Today: 520-762-1557

WildberryMD.com

A locally Vail, AZ-based company for over 15 years

If you live in Tucson or Vail and feel like your body has changed — you are not alone. Many women and men over 40 in our community struggle with stubborn weight gain, constant hunger, low energy, brain fog, mood swings, poor sleep, and hot flashes. Often, it's not about willpower. It's about hormones.

At WildBerryMD, we are proud to be a local Tucson and Vail-based wellness team serving Southern Arizona for over 15 years. We specialize in medical weight loss and hormone optimization designed for real life.

Our personalized weight loss programs may include GLP Success therapies and other prescription options, when medically appropriate, to help reduce hunger, quiet "food noise," and support better control of cravings. By addressing insulin resistance and metabolic slowdown, many of our patients experience steady, sustainable

progress without extreme dieting or quick fixes.

For women experiencing perimenopause or menopause symptoms — including hot flashes, mood changes, muscle loss, fatigue, and midsection weight gain — our BHRT therapies are designed to support hormone balance and overall vitality. For men, we also address hormone-related energy decline and metabolic changes that affect weight and strength.

We begin with a guided health history review and one-on-one consultation to understand your symptoms, goals, and lifestyle. From there, we create a personalized plan focused on helping you feel energized, clear-minded, and confident again.

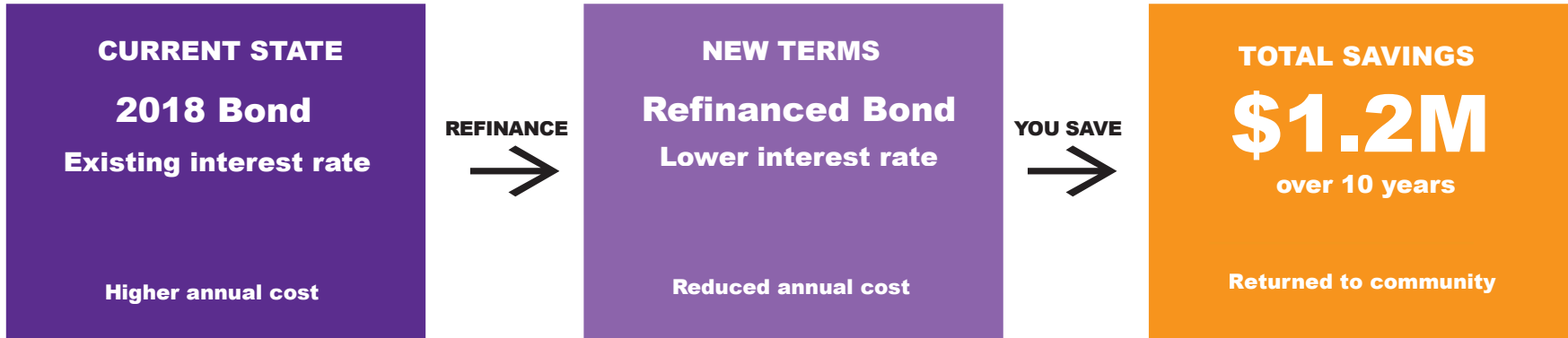
You deserve to feel strong and balanced at every stage of life.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go: V

Visual data to accompany Superior

**“We are committed to fiscal responsibility. We use public
Priorities are developed based on student needs, legal respons**

BOND REFINANCING OPPORTUNITY



5
CONSECUTIVE
YEARS
of declining
property tax rates

\$1.2M
PROJECTED
SAVINGS
from bond
refinancing
Over the next 10 years

AWARD WINNING
school district!
Pre-K through high school
#1
RATED SCHOOLS

2018
VOTER-APPROVED
BOND
All projects
completed
as promised



“Where Education is
a Community Effort”



vailschooldistrict.org



Vail School District 2020–2025

Superintendent John Carruth's column

resources to provide a quality education for our students. Opportunities, and cost effective methods.” VUSD Guiding Principle

2018 VOTER-APPROVED BOND PROJECTS COMPLETED

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Mica Mountain High School

New school build

Andrada Polytechnic HS

Campus expansion

Saguaro Creek K-8

New school build

Old Vail Middle School

New library (replaced 35-yr modular)

Vail Academy and High School

K-5 expansion

UPGRADES & TECHNOLOGY

High-Speed Fiber Network

District-wide networking upgrade

Student Transportation

New fleet vehicles purchased

Mechanic Shop Expansion

Cost-effective in-house repairs

MAINTENANCE & SAFETY

Flooring & Roofing

Worn surfaces repaired/replaced

Fields & Playgrounds

Outdoor facility improvements

Parking Lots

Resurfacing & safety upgrades

**YOUR DOLLARS • YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR SCHOOLS**



**“Where Education is
a Community Effort”**



vailschooldistrict.org



VAIL PRIDE DAY '26



Another Shining Vail Pride Day

The morning was bright and sunny as the JROTC lead the way for the parade at Vail Pride Day 2026. The day was filled with lots of activity...including games, singing arts, food and more. Brent Edward's with Beyond Textbooks perfectly summed up the day's events "Nearly 15,000 people coming out to the fairgrounds to see visual arts performance arts,



academic competitions and the science showcase."

Juilletta DeMarco, a student who with other students, represented Cottonwood at the Math Bowl. She said that winning "Makes me feel great and like I can do anything."

Music was outside at one of the ramadas. Tyler Bachman with the Blue Green Band at Andrada said "There are a lot of people from the other schools and they get to see what our school has to offer. Not only as a program, but to see who we are and it gives us more exposure too."

Portia Ferrar who is a senior at Mica Mountain and an intern with the district said "what makes us different is the community we



build so strong. It is one hundred percent true. I have teachers that still stay in contact from first grade to high school."

Janice Allen with Friends of the Anne Gibson Esmond Station Library reminded those in attendance about the good the library does the the community. "We started a scholarship in Anne Gibson's name that will go to a senior who is graduating this year. The scholarship emphasizes communi-ty activity and service."

Finally Anne Gibson remembered the first Vail Pride Day seventeen years ago. "It was just very simple..but it did so well that teachers wanted to have it again the next year. She said Vail Pride Day is so



special because no other district can do it.

By Lucretia Free



Live Well. Connect Often.



Get ready to celebrate the Grand Opening of The Rincon Club—Del Webb at Rocking K's new social and wellness hub crafted for inspired living! Join us for an unforgettable day full of energy, fun, and community spirit. Discover beautifully crafted amenities, enjoy light bites, giveaways, and live entertainment, and connect with neighbors and friends as we celebrate a vibrant new chapter at Del Webb at Rocking K. Come "live like a resident for a day" and tour the centerpiece of our new 55+ active adult community, nestled at the base of the scenic Rincon Mountains.

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION AT THE RINCON CLUB

Saturday, February 7
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Clubhouse Tours
- Live Art Demonstration
- Free Food & Live Entertainment
- Club Exhibition
- Giveaways & Raffles

Del Webb[®]
ROCKING K

delwebb.com/rockingk
(520) 447-4454

Models open daily: 9am to 5pm.



At Del Webb communities, at least one resident must be 55 years of age or older, no one under 19 (18 in certain communities) in permanent residence, and additional restrictions apply. Some residents may be younger than 55. Quick move-in homes are subject to prior sale or withdrawal from market, and price is subject to change at any time without notice. Builder does not represent or warrant the date of actual completion of a home. Prices may not include lot premiums, upgrades, and options. Community Association and golf fees may be required. Prices, promotions, incentives, features, options, amenities, floor plans, elevations, designs, materials, and dimensions are subject to change without notice and may not be available on all homes or in a particular community or may be unavailable due to an individual home's construction schedule. Square footage and dimensions are estimated and may vary in actual construction. Community improvements and recreational features and amenities described are based upon current development plans which are subject to change, and which are under no obligation to be completed. Actual position of house on lot will be determined by the site plan and plot plan. Floor plans, interior photographs and elevations are artist's conception or model renderings for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to be an actual representation of a specific home being offered and depict a model containing features or designs that may not be available on all homes or that may be available for an additional cost. Floor plans are the property of PulteGroup, Inc. and its affiliates and are protected by U.S. copyright laws. For further information, see our terms of use. This is not an offering to residents of NY, NJ, CA or CT or where otherwise prohibited by law. ©2025 PulteGroup, Inc. PGI Realty, brokerage for Pulte Home Corporation, 8605 E. Raintree Drive, Ste 300, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. This material shall not constitute a valid offer in any state where prior registration is required or if void by law. Del Webb® and the Del Webb Script are registered trademarks of PulteGroup, Inc. and/or its affiliates. ©2025 PulteGroup, Inc. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. January 2026



REAL Farmers. Food. Artisans.

Get **REAL** at Heirloom.



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

HEIRLOOM
FARMERS MARKETS

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

SATURDAYS 9am - 1pm **WINTER HOURS**

Rincon Valley Farmers & Artisans Market

12500 East Old Spanish Trail, Vail, AZ

f 520.882.2157 • HEIRLOOMFM.ORG



The Academy of Tucson

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

Come see about the Academy of Tucson!



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



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



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

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



Colossal Cave Road – A Nexus of History

Vail's story is written by a landscape that accommodated routes for settlement, communication and commerce. Vail is listed in the nationally recognized Pima County Sonoran Conservation Plan as one of ten Pima County historic communities. Its history is not always top of mind today as we rush from one commitment to the next. Colossal Cave Road is a nexus of history whose story includes Tohono O'odham trails, Southern Emigrant and Mormon Battalion Trails, Butterfield Overland Mail, Tucson to Tombstone Stage Route, and Arizona's Mother Road – U.S. Hwy. 80. Cultural resource surveys state that the road itself has historic significance. The Tucson section has a scenic designation.

In the 1880s-1890s working for the railroad, a ranch, or mining brought hope of prosperity to those living within an area the size of the Vail School District. In 1861, Raphael Pumpelley, an Italian geologist, surveyed copper and silver deposits in the Santa Rita Mountains. In 1865, Pinckney Tully and Estevan Ochoa mined, smelted, then hauled 5,000 pounds of copper out of the Santa Rita's to Tucson. Copper became a valuable commodity in the 1890s when Edison improved the light bulb.

Tucson's Loss, Vail's Gain

... Mr. Seager, general manager of the Helvetia mines, ... offered to bear half the expense of building a fine road from Tucson to Helvetia. After giving the supervisors ample time, and no action



Colossal Cave Road: Welcome to Vail Public Art, a community-powered Vail Preservation Society project. Photo courtesy of the Vail Preservation Society

being taken on his proposition, a road was built to Vail's station by the mine company. Tucson necessarily losing by the loss of freighting.
Arizona Daily Star, August 31, 1899

When the Pima County Board of Supervisors failed to act, Helvetia Mining Company spent \$10,000. of company funds, about \$400,000. today, to build a 17-mile wagon road to Vails Station. The road's name was Vail to Helvetia Road, later shortened to Vail Road, and in 2007 renamed Colossal Cave Road. Today only the Old Vail Post Office remains as a silent witness to this palimpsest of transportation history. The RTA Next plan includes a grade-separated roadway in the vicinity of Colossal Cave Road for safety, accommodated by an alternative route to the west. Design needs to specifically include access between the tracks when trains are passing through to provide the needed safety access.

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.



▶ EYECARE ◀

FOR EVERY GENERATION



Carmen L. Felix
Tacoronte, MD



Karl A.
Rosen, MD



Timothy E.
Marra, DO



Zachary P.
Pfau, OD



Stephanie
Burruel, OD

Maintaining good vision is essential to your overall health.

Whether it's routine eye exams or glasses and contacts, Desert Eye Associates has everything you need to ensure your eyesight is always at its best. Our practices consist of exceptional Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Opticians, and Staff who specialize in complete vision and medical examinations, surgery for numerous eye conditions and diseases, as well as contacts, and glasses. Schedule an appointment at one of our three convenient locations, including the **TMC Rincon Health Campus**, and experience excellence in eye care close to home.



(520) 327-5677
DesertEye.net

TMC Rincon Health Campus:
10350 E Drexel Rd, Suite 230

Or at one of these locations:
1110 N El Dorado Place, Tucson

1150 S Calle de las Casitas,
Suite 150, Green Valley

*Prior to your visit, please call
the office to ensure we are in your
insurance network or vision plan.*

Enjoy your special moments pest free.

\$50^{*} Off
**4 Seasons
Pest Control**

Call Now!

Receive a FREE inspection
and this great offer.

*Applicable to new annual service agreement.



SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO AND DEALS



800 • GO • TRULY

Bee Aware: What Vail Homeowners Should Know About Africanized Honeybees

Research from the University of Arizona indicates nearly 100% of feral honey bee colonies in our region are Africanized. Any unmanaged hive should be treated as a potential threat.

Often called "killer bees," Africanized honey bees are a hybrid of African and European bees. While a single sting is no more dangerous than any other honey bee, these bees react faster and defend their nests aggressively — sometimes attacking in large numbers. Mass stinging incidents can be life-threatening, especially for children, seniors, pets, and those with allergies.

Beyond safety risks, Africanized honey bees also compete with native pollinators. Vail is home

to thousands of native pollinator species, and aggressive honey bee foraging can disrupt delicate desert ecosystems.

Because of the danger Africanized honey bees pose, colony elimination is often the safest and most responsible solution. If you notice heavy bee activity or unusually aggressive behavior, keep people and pets at a safe distance and contact a licensed professional right away. Acting quickly can prevent a dangerous situation from escalating.

If you suspect a hive on your property, call Bill's Home Service at (520) 346-4564 for safe, professional removal.



DUCK PRESS

MEDIA SOLUTIONS





DUCKPRESS.COM
4633 E BROADWAY BLVD.

WE CAN PRINT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

AND WE'RE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER


MENUS


BANNERS
 INDOOR / OUTDOOR


A-FRAMES


WALLPAPER
 STOREFRONT VINYL


FLAGS


FLYERS AND TRIFOLDS


BUILDING PLANS


BUSINESS CARDS


REAL ESTATE SIGNS


AND MUCH MORE

LOCATED AT BROADWAY & SWAN AND WE CAN DELIVER

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




Pest Control • Weed Control • Termite Service • Home Inspection



Desert-proof your property.

\$25 OFF* Initial Pest Control Service	\$100 OFF* Sentricon System Installation	\$50 OFF* Liquid Termite Treatment w/ 1-Year Contract	\$50 OFF* Initial Weed Control Service
--	--	---	--

*Must mention this ad. Not valid with other offers. Expires 3/31/26. VV-032026



(520) 346-4564
billshomeservice.com

Family-owned & community trusted since 1964.

PMD Lic. #4320

TRAIL BOSS®

Outfitters

GUNS & GEAR

13180 Colossal Cave Rd #120
Vail, AZ 85641

NO CITY SALES TAX

WE DO SPECIAL ORDERS AT A GREAT PRICE!

Western Hospitality with Friendly Prices

520-274-7528

trailbossoutfitters.com









Events

Until March 31 the Art Wall at the Arizona Senior Academy* will feature paintings by Academy Village residents Lynda Skinner and Sheldon Strom, with the theme: Celebrating Arizona. 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.

Wed, Mar. 4, 3 p.m. Lecture by Murat Kacira, Ph.D., Interim Department Head, U of A Biosystems Engineering, "Bioeconomy and Circular Economy." Dr. Kacira will describe the bioeconomy as using renewable biological resources to produce food, energy, and everyday products in cleaner, more sustainable ways.

Fri, Mar. 6, 11:30 a.m. ASA* Concert: Visiting artists, the Coastal Bend Chamber Players, feature bassoonist Scott Pool and cellist Carrie Pierce from Texas A&M, Corpus Christi, violinist Madeleine Jansen from Kansas State University, and violist Tonya Burton from Sam Houston State University, Houston, playing "From Classics to Contemporary."

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 +.

Sat, Mar. 14, 2026, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Voyager RV Resort Market Daze/ Farmers Market Ballroom kitchen open for lunch 11am - 1pm. Last market of the season. Returns Nov. 2026

Mon, Mar. 9, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture by Tammi Walker, Ph.D., U of A Associate Professor of Law and Psychology, "The Vanishing Enforcement of Title IX." Dr. Walker will explain how recent efforts to

weaken or dismantle the U.S. Department of Education changed how Title IX operates, particularly in cases involving sexual misconduct.

Tues, Mar. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. VPS.** March 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; Vail Pride Day post-mortem; interpretive themes for visitors to the Old P.O.; Pima County Pima Prosper draft. Join us and share your thoughts!

Wed, Mar. 11, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture by Debbie C. Buecher, M.S., Wildlife Biologist; Project Manager, Buecher Biological Consulting, "The Natural History of Bats." Ms. Buecher invites audiences to reconsider bats by highlighting their intelligence, gentle nature, and vital environmental benefits while dispelling myths created by movies and Halloween imagery.

Fri, Mar. 13, 11:30 a.m. ASA* Concert: Nancy McCallion's Irish Trio gets us ready for St. Patrick's Day with "a twist of soul and a dram of blarney." Nancy is joined by husband, guitarist Danny Krieger, and good friend, violinist Heather Hardy.

Saturday, March 14, 10 - 11 a.m. FREE Desert Landscape Basics class: "Water Smarter, Not Harder" at Four Arrows Garden Center. Learn how to water more efficiently while helping your landscape thrive. **Bonus:** It's also FREE Succulent Saturday on March 14th—each guest will receive one free succulent (no purchase necessary). Come learn, grow, and take a little plant joy home with you.

Mon, Mar. 16, 3 p.m. ASA** Lecture by Sonya Norman, Public Programs Coordinator, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. "Iberian Culture, Agriculture, Language, Architecture and Its Manifestation in the Southwest."

Wed, Mar. 18, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture by Melody Loya, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor of Social Work, Tareton State

University, Texas, "The Transforming Power of Travel: Learning, Respect, and Growth." Dr. Loya examines how ethically designed study abroad programs can transform participants produce lasting changes in attitudes and behaviors.

Fri, Mar. 20, 11:30 a.m. ASA* Concert: Liz & Pete's "Sparrows & the Last Train" bring Peter Dalton Ronstadt's originals plus more music "from the post-modern West" - with Liz Cerepanya (vocals), Petie Ronstadt (vocals, guitar), Don Armstrong (vocals, banjo), Ed Friedland (bass) and Tyrus Watson (drums).

Mon, Mar. 23, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Wed, Mar. 25, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture by Steve Erdman, M.D., retired pediatric gastroenterologist; Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Ohio State University College of Medicine, "Colon Cancer 101." Dr. Erdman will explain the difference between the two different types of colorectal cancer, the changing natural history and symptoms of the disease, and screening options.

Fri, Mar. 27, 11:30 a.m. Chinese pianist Jing Jin, currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, performs a solo recital of music by Mozart, Chopin, Ravel, and Granados.

Fri, Mar. 6th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fourth Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk at Cienega High School. Hosted by The Ethan Ardrey Project, VSDF and Cienga HS. Gates open at 10 a.m. Walk will start at 11 a.m. Silent auction is from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Join us for a free family event. Mental health resources, jumping castles, DJ, food trucks, and vendors.

Sat, Mar. 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join the fun! The 2nd annual Pet Expo is being held at the Del Webb Rancho Del Lago Community (10264 S. Blendu Way, Vail). Free and open to the public and vendors. For more information contact DWRDL. NGRAY@gmail.com. Dress up pet parade @10:30!

Mon, Mar. 30, 3 p.m. ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Fri, Apr. 3, 11:30 a.m. ASA* Concert: Singer/songwriter/guitarist Teodoro "Ted" Ramirez, Tucson's Official Troubadour, captures Southwestern and Mexican-American traditions in original songs.

Sat / Sun, Apr. 11-12, 12:30 - 5 p.m. FREE skin screenings for all at the Tucson Folk Festival. NO INSURANCE NEEDED! Come see The Sun Bus for skin cancer education, skin screenings and free samples. Downtown Tucson 201 N Court Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701. Schedule ahead of time at <https://www.thesunbus.org/2026-event-list>. Walk-ins welcome.

Sun, Apr. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. TCC Coin & Stamp Show with 42 tables of dealers. Admission free. Location: Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 East Bellevue St., Tucson, Arizona 85712. Contact: www.tucsoncoinclub.com. Tucson Coin Club is a non-profit organization.

***ASA. The Arizona Senior Academy**
****VPS. The Vail Preservation Society**
*****TVC The Vail Chorale.** - TVC Events are at Cienega High School, 12775 East Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Room 218. Visit www.thevailchorale.org for Registration Form and more information, or contact thevailchorale@gmail.com.

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

Mental Skills Training



Free consultation for you or your student athlete.
mindtrainingsystem.com

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



BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CLEANING SERVICES

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

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

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

HANDYMAN

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

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

Loren's Handyman and Painting Services. Painting, Drywall repair, tile setting, wood laminate floor install, minor bathroom remodel, minor plumbing repairs, misc. house repairs. Call or text: 520-912-5055

Big Bubba's Handyman Service
We do almost everything. Low prices.
Call John 520-482-7375

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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

HOME SERVICES

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

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

PERSONAL SERVICES

Neighborhood Barber delivers private, one-on-one barbering with precision cuts, fades, and shaves. Men's and kids' services in a relaxed, comfortable setting at a great price. Call 520-358-9737 or Instagram @eoc_03

FOR RENT

Trailer Rental to the right person. 27' trailer. Quite area, nonsmoking, drinking or drugs. OST & Irvington, dirt road. Near main house. \$800 mo. Text 520-850-0257

ROOMATE WANTED

Christian middle-aged woman seeking work for Christian couple. Live in cook and housekeeping in exchange for room board. Small salary additional. I have a small dog. Snowbirds: I am willing to relocate. Jackie 520-246-6153.

STORAGE

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

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

YARD WORK

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

Sprinkler & Drip Repairs - The Irrigation Masters *System Check-Ups *Valves, Heads, Timers *Leak Detection *Irrigation Maintenance *Troubleshooting & Repairs *Wiring & Low Pressure Problems. 30+ Years of Quality Service www.theirrigationmasters.com 520-274-1333

Sunrise Irrigation Since 1984. Owner Tom Daniels. Specialists in installations, repairs, and troubleshooting of sprinkler and drip systems. Email: lindycm@msn.com Phone: 520 882-9929. Licensed and Insured.



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

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

To place a classified ad, send an email to: classifieds@TheVailVoice.com.



UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION

Complete Remodeling
Design · Permits · Construction
New Custom Cabinetry & Tops
Complete Bathroom Remodeling
Framing · Concrete · Additions · Garages

Block Walls / Home Repairs
No job too small / New Homes

ROC #s 094200 & 162944

631-4874 or 647-3113

email: uniquedevelopmentinc@outlook.com

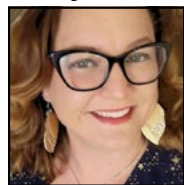
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.uniquedevelopment.info

Whole-Person Mental Health Care in Tucson and Vail

Caring for mental health is essential to overall well-being. Mindful Vision Counseling is pleased to expand in-person therapy services in Tucson and Vail, Arizona, while continuing telehealth support across multiple states.

Rooted in a whole-person philosophy, the practice focuses on improving mental, emotional, and physical well-being — for good. Therapy is designed not only to reduce symptoms, but to build resilience and create lasting change.

Emily Farabaugh, LPC offers in-person sessions near the University of Arizona. ADHD-certified and trauma-informed, she works with teens, adults, and seniors navigating anxiety, life transitions, and executive functioning challenges.



Elizabeth DeVries, LPC (EM-DR-Certified) provides in-person therapy in Vail for children, teens, adults, couples, and families. She supports clients facing anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, and relationship concerns with a calm, collaborative approach.



For more information or to schedule: 860-249-1720
whitney@mindfulvisioncounseling.com
www.mindfulvisioncounseling.com



need some support?

individualized *whole-person* support for local teens, parents/couples and families. **improved mental, emotional and physical well-being... for good.**

call today for your free consultation
www.mindfulvisioncounseling.com
860.249.1720



"Skyward"

continued from page 8

In recent years, I have become introverted once again. I am surrounded by excellent friends and family, but losing Wendee was very difficult. But there is one saving grace. On a starry night I walk out to my observatory and open it. Seeing the stars still gives me more happiness than I can ever expect. What began in 1965 has offered fulfillment, peace, and experiences I shall always cherish.

By Doveed

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



AZ Lantanas Landscaping

(520) 288-1271

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

Free Estimates!!!

Owner: Juan Gastelum



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

GAIL GRIFFIN
MEMBER, DISTRICT 19

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

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



© Elisabeth Bell 2026. All rights reserved.
The alteration of this image is strictly prohibited, including the duplication, distribution or sale of this image in any form without a legal license and written consent provided by the Artist.

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

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

Solution - No cheating!

8	ε	†	5	∟	6	9	∟	2
2	∟	9	†	∟	5	8	6	
6	5	∟	9	8	2	∟	†	ε
†	9	ε	8	2	∟	6	5	∟
5	6	∟	∟	∟	†	8	2	9
∟	2	8	6	9	5	†	ε	∟
9	8	5	2	6	∟	ε	∟	†
ε	†	2	∟	5	9	∟	6	8
∟	∟	6	ε	†	8	2	9	5

Medium Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

5	8	†	ε	2	9	∟	∟	6
ε	9	∟	6	∟	8	†	5	2
∟	6	2	5	∟	†	ε	9	8
∟	†	9	8	5	2	∟	6	ε
6	ε	5	∟	9	∟	8	2	†
2	∟	8	†	6	ε	9	∟	5
8	∟	∟	2	†	6	5	ε	9
†	5	6	9	ε	∟	2	8	∟
9	2	ε	∟	8	5	6	†	∟

Hard Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

8	6	9	ε	∟	5	2	∟	†
∟	†	5	2	9	8	ε	∟	6
ε	2	∟	†	6	∟	5	8	9
∟	5	8	6	2	†	∟	9	ε
2	ε	6	8	∟	9	†	5	∟
9	∟	†	5	ε	∟	8	6	2
6	∟	ε	∟	8	2	9	†	5
5	9	∟	∟	†	ε	6	2	8
†	8	2	9	5	6	∟	ε	∟

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

Fee Only Fiduciary, I act in your best interest.

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

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



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

Word Search

Adverbs

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

ACROSS	BEHIND	HENCE	ONCE	SOMETIMES
AGAIN	BELOW	HIGH	PRESENTLY	SOMEWHERE
AHEAD	BRISKLY	HOMEWARD	QUICKLY	SOON
ALMOST	DOWN	HOWEVER	QUIETLY	THEN
ALREADY	EARLY	LITTLE	QUITE	THERE
ALSO	EASILY	LONG	RARELY	TODAY
ALWAYS	FAST	LOUDLY	RATHER	TOMORROW
ANYWHERE	FIRST	MONTHLY	REALLY	UPWARD
APART	FOREVER	NEARBY	SHORT	WEEKLY
AWAY	FORWARD	NEVER	SLOWLY	WISELY
BACK	GENTLY	NOWHERE	SOFTLY	YESTERDAY
BEFORE	GREATLY	OFTEN		

Spring Pima County Master Gardener Plant Sale

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 8-11 a.m.

Where:

Pima County Extension –
4210 N Campbell Ave, Tucson
Brand-new nursery adjacent to the
new state-of-the-art greenhouse
Tucson, AZ

Who:

Pima County Master Gardener
Program

Details:

The Spring Pima County Master Gardener Plant Sale is a visually engaging community event featuring desert-appropriate plants, expert gardening advice, and sustainable landscaping education. This year's sale will be held in a brand-new, expanded nursery located next to the program's new greenhouse facility, showcasing modern, sustainable horticulture practices.

Shoppers will find a wide selection of plants including cacti, shrubs, flowers, trees, irises, bulbs, herbs, and seasonal vegetables grown from seed. Compost, soil probes, and the Master Gardener Handbook will also be available for purchase. Trained Master Gardeners will be on site throughout the event to answer questions and share spring gardening tips for Southern Arizona.

Contact:

Lisa Follett
Pima County Master Gardener
Program
lisafollett@gmail.com
425-681-5547



Beyond Real Estate: When a House Becomes a Home

A house is often chosen for sensible reasons. The commute makes sense. The layout works. The price fits the budget. On paper, the decision is logical. But what ultimately gives a house meaning has little to do with logic and even less to do with listings.

Home reveals itself slowly. It appears in the way mornings begin to follow a rhythm, or in how evenings soften as familiar routines take hold. It shows up not all at once, but in fragments—small moments that accumulate until the space feels less temporary and more personal.

At first, a room may feel unfinished, its purpose undecided. Over time, it becomes something specific. A table becomes the place where homework is spread out, and conversations wander. A corner of the living room becomes where someone always sits, without ever quite deciding why. These quiet patterns are rarely noticed as they form, yet they are what anchor people to a place.

Unlike a house, a home does not stand still. It changes as life does. What once felt expansive can later feel cozy. What once felt quiet can grow loud with activity. Spaces adapt to new chapters—sometimes joyful, sometimes challenging—without ceremony or announcement. And in doing so, they begin to reflect the people who live there, not just their needs, but their lives.

In communities like Vail, this process often unfolds against a familiar backdrop. Afternoons stretch a little longer. Neighbors pause to talk rather than pass by. Children drift between houses until the light fades and porch lights begin to glow. These scenes are unremarkable in the moment, yet they are the details people remember long after they have moved on.



A home becomes a kind of archive. It holds evidence of who lived there and how. It remembers routines even after they've changed, and moments even after they've passed. Long after furniture has been rearranged or replaced, the feeling of a place often remains.

This is why the idea of home carries such weight. It is not something that can be rushed or manufactured. It cannot be fully predicted at the time of purchase. It is shaped gradually, through repetition and presence, through living fully in ordinary days.

Beyond real estate, beyond transactions and timelines, home is where life takes place without performance or polish. Not everything is planned. Not everything lasts. But the moments that matter tend to find their way in—and stay.

Vail Market Snapshot

- Median List Price: \$425,000
- Median Days on Market: 63 days
- Median Rent: \$2,045
- Market Trend: Slight Seller's Advantage
- Mortgage Rates: 3-year low

Note: These figures reflect data from late-February 2026 and may vary by the time of publication.

By *Seth Silver* | Realtor®
Keller Williams Southern Arizona

BEST DAM
PLUMBING LLC

We Are Here For
**RELIABLE AND PROFESSIONAL
PLUMBING SERVICES AT A LOWER COST**

Every DAM Time.

☎ 520.991.4506 | ✉ info@bestdamplumbing.com

AccountKeepers

Financial & Personal Support *You Can Count On!*

Friendly, local and experienced! I offer a unique blend of full-service **bookkeeping**, **financial reporting**, and **tax prep**, along with **Medicare help**, **notary services**, **document assistance**, **banking support** and more.

*Trustworthy support
tailored to your needs.*

Barbara Sevigny

☎ 520-307-9215

✉ barbsevigny22@gmail.com





SEAC Community Meeting February 10, 2026

RTA Next meeting held at W. Anne Gibson – Esmond Station Library. Melanie Lawson (RTA) provided overview. Rick Ellis (PAG Director of Transportation Services) provided more detailed information. Sandi Garrick (Cottonwood Properties) advocated for RTA Next. Opposing document also provided. Meeting broadcasted live on Vail Voice's Facebook and YouTube.

What is RTA, RTA Next?

- **Regional Transportation Authority (RTA):** State-established taxing district created in 2004. First RTA plan with its half-cent sales tax approved by Pima County voters in 2006 for 20 years (expires June 30, 2026).
- **RTA Next:** Proposed 20-year successor plan requiring voter approval March, 2026. Not tax increase, but extension of existing half-cent sales tax (Prop 419) to fund proposed projects (Prop 418).
- **Governance:** Governed by board with representatives from Pima Association of Governments (PAG), jurisdictions.

Scope, Components:

- Transit services (Sun Van, Sun Shuttle, Dial-a-Ride).
- Multi-use paths, bike lanes, sidewalks.
- Pedestrian crossings.
- Seven "carryover" projects from 2006 RTA, 31 new roadway projects with bicycle, pedestrian, drainage enhancements.
- Walking, cycling paths including signalized pedestrian crossings.
- Rebuilding roads "curb to curb" for durability, not just pothole repair (local jurisdiction's responsibility).

Funding Mechanism and Need:

- **Half-Cent Sales Tax:** Generates approximately \$125-126 million annually (two-thirds of region's transportation funding).
- **Revenue Capture:** Generated also from part-time residents, visitors (e.g., Gem Show attendees). Groceries, pharmaceutical items tax-exempt.
- **Why Crucial:** Gas tax hasn't increased in nearly 30 years. Less revenue collected due to fuel-efficient, electric vehicles.

Consequences of Failure (if not passed):

- Estimated loss of 54,000 jobs, \$3.5 billion in economic activity.
- Drastic reduction in transit services, impacting vulnerable populations.
- Increased traffic congestion, commute times.
- No viable backup plan nor regional collaboration.

Plan Development, Accountability:

- **Public Input:** RTA Next plan developed over six years with extensive public feedback and input from committees, jurisdictional partners.
- **Financial Accountability:** RTA passes audit every five years by Arizona Auditor General.
- **Conservative Revenue Targets:** RTA Next board has adopted more conservative revenue projection. Previous plan underperformed due to economic factors, slower-than-anticipated population growth.
- **Local Control:** Sales tax collection, project implementation managed locally, ensuring Pima County has fund control.

Meeting concluded with appreciation for presenters and Gerald Lamb's ongoing technical assistance. Elaine Schmerbeck announced stepping down from SEAC as she and husband are moving back to Phoenix area to be closer to family.

By Elaine Schmerbeck
seac@seazcouncil.org



AlsoOnTheMove

Empire High School Speech and Debate member **Brady 'Chad' Ziemba** won 1st place in his event at the tournament on Saturday in Gilbert, AZ.



Looking to Get Noticed?

Advertise Here!

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



THE VAIL VOICE | thevailvoice.com



Auto Repair With Heart

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

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

(520) 394-8394 | Monday-Friday: 7:30am-5:30pm

10508 E Old Vail Rd (next to Hotrods)

oorooauto.com

Arizona Daily Star

AZ DAILY STAR
READERS FAVORITE



SOUTHERN ARIZONA TORCH AWARD
ETHICS & CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE



Serving Rita Ranch and Southeast Tucson for over 15 years!

Quality Care, Personalized Attention, Full-Service Pet Clinic

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

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

Large, private parking lot for your pet's safety

Heather Redmon, DVM

www.maderavet.com

574-3700

7681 S. Houghton Road

Excellent Care for Excellent Pets!



Home equity can sound like one of those grown-up money topics that's either brilliant or risky, depending on who's explaining it. And honestly, both can be true. A HELOC (Home Equity Line of Credit) can be a really useful tool when you use it with intention. It gives you flexibility, but it still needs a plan.

Quick HELOC refresher

A HELOC is a line of credit tied to your home's equity (the difference between what your home is worth and what you still owe). Instead of receiving one lump sum, you're approved for a credit limit, and you can borrow what you need, when you need it. You typically pay interest only on what you use.

Now, here are seven common ways homeowners use a HELOC and why they work.

Home improvements you'll still be glad you did later

Think roof repairs, HVAC upgrades, plumbing issues, windows, functional kitchen updates; the kind of projects that protect your home and make daily life easier.

Paying down high-interest credit card debt

A HELOC may offer a lower rate than many credit cards, which can help you make real progress. The key is having a plan so the credit card balances don't creep back.

Emergency backup (while you build savings)

Some people keep a HELOC available for peace of mind, even if they rarely use it. It can help with true emergencies like urgent repairs, medical expenses, or unexpected travel.

Big planned expenses without draining savings

Dental work, medical procedures, planned repairs, or family expenses. A HELOC can help you cover a large cost while keeping cash available for everything else.

Bridging timing gaps

If you have money coming but not yet (reimbursements, project phases, uneven timing), a HELOC can help fill the gap as long as you have a clear payoff plan.

Investing in a small business or side hustle (carefully)

Some homeowners use a HELOC for equipment, tools, or startup costs. This can work best when household income is stable, and the repayment plan is realistic.

Creating breathing room during a life transition

Job changes, caregiving, divorce, or a temporary income drop can make flexibility valuable. In these moments, the goal is often stability, not perfection.

A quick checklist before you apply

Ask yourself: Do I know exactly what I'm using it for? Can I explain my payoff plan in one sentence? Does this fit my monthly budget? Am I borrowing a reasonable amount? Will this expense last longer than the debt?

Where Hughes fits in

A HELOC isn't something most people want to apply for impulsively, and it shouldn't feel like you're doing it alone. If you're considering using your home equity, Hughes can help you explore your options, walk through the numbers, and move forward with confidence.

Discover how a Hughes HELOC can help take you further at HughesFCU.org/HELOC.

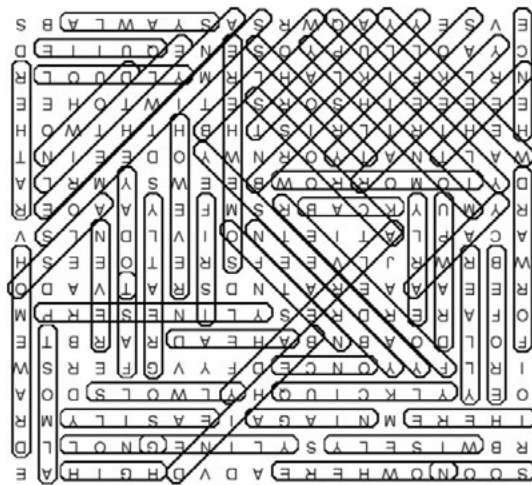


Word Search | Solved

- YESTERDAY
- WISELY
- WEEKLY
- UPWARD
- TOMORROW
- TODAY
- THERE
- THEN
- SOON
- SOMEWHERE
- SOMETIMES
- SOFTLY
- SLOWLY
- SHORT
- REALLY
- RATHER
- RARELY
- QUITE
- QUITELY
- QUICKLY
- PRESENTLY
- ONCE
- OFTEN
- NOWHERE
- NEVER
- NEARBY
- MONTHLY
- LOUDLY
- LONG

- LITTLE
- HOWEVER
- HOWARD
- HIGH
- HENCE
- GREATLY
- GENTLY
- FORWARD
- FOREVER
- FIRST
- FAST
- EASILY
- EARLY
- DOWN
- BRISKLY
- BELOW
- BEHIND
- BEFORE
- BACK
- AWAY
- APART
- ANYWHERE
- ALWAYS
- ALSO
- ALREADY
- ALMOST
- AHEAD
- AGAIN
- ACROSS

The hidden message is: ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS AND ADJECTIVES AND OTHER ADVERBS



Adverbs



Create the life you want.

Make the equity in your home work for you.

Make the most out of your home's equity with a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC). Borrow anywhere from \$10,000 to \$250,000, enjoy adjustable rates with flexible terms—plus, no penalties for paying off your loan early. Whether it's renovating your space, consolidating debt, or funding once-in-a-lifetime experiences, our HELOC is designed to partner with your potential.

Get started by visiting us at HughesFCU.org/HELOC



Best Bank/Credit Union
Best Debit Card
Best Large Company to Work For

HughesFCU.org
520-794-8341

Insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #411592 Subject to credit approval.

This Page to be removed