

Happy MOTHER'S Day

May Events!
5/5 Cinco de Mayo
5/10 Mother's Day
5/25 Memorial Day
See Events on pg. 21!

Word Search
on Page
24
Answer Key: Pg. 27



Gail Griffin
Arizona House of Representatives

Back To Basics In Women's Sports

The International Olympic Committee has announced a new policy that ensures only biological females can compete in women's athletic competitions. This decision comes amid an ongoing global debate about fairness, safety, and the integrity of women's sports. Supporters of the policy praised the decision, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a level playing field for women and preserving opportunities for female athletes to compete on equal standards.



Supreme Court Defends Free Speech

In an 8-1 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down viewpoint-based censorship in counseling, marking a significant victory for families and the protection of free speech. The ruling, which was issued in the case of *Chiles V. Salazar*, reinforces constitutional rights by affirming that individuals cannot be restricted from expressing their views in professional settings based solely on government preference. This decision is widely seen as an important step in protecting First Amendment rights and limiting government overreach, while setting the standard of educating children of their biological bodies.

Building Security At The Border

U.S. District Judge Angela Martinez has upheld the federal government's authority to expedite border wall construction in Southern Arizona, affirming a longstanding legal provision dating back to 1990 that allows certain regulatory

requirements to be waived for national security projects. This ruling enables the federal government to continue progress along the San Rafael Valley, which supports ongoing efforts to strengthen border infrastructure and, in turn, national security. This decision reinforces the federal government's ability to move forward efficiently on critical infrastructure projects that ultimately support long-term border security objectives.

Awards & Recognition

Legislative District 19 lawmakers are fighting for you. This year, Representative Griffin was honored with several awards for her strong track record of experience, productivity, and public service.

- Earned the inaugural Leadership Award from the Graham County Chamber of Commerce for making a lasting impact in the Gila Valley.
- Ranked one of the "Most Effective Lawmakers" by the Center for Effective Lawmaking for the ability to turn legislative proposals into law.
- Recognized by the Arizona Capitol Times as one of Arizona's "Power 50" for her role in shaping rural groundwater policy.

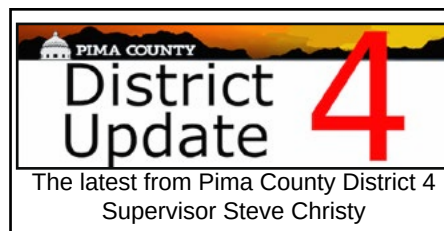
These efforts showcase a focus on delivering results, working strategically, and advancing policies that support Arizona's long-term growth and support.

Tax Day Is Here

As Governor Hobbs' tax policies continue to leave Arizona families confused and in limbo, Arizona Republican leaders are urging taxpayers not to delay filing because of the uncertainty.

With the April 15 deadline quickly approaching, Arizona House and Senate Republicans are encouraging taxpayers to act promptly to avoid penalties and stay compliant with updated tax conformity requirements.

Earlier this year, the Hobbs' "Gail Griffin" continued on page 4



Your District 4 office has spearheaded several state legislative initiatives this session that significantly affect our region, our communities, our safety, and potentially our lives. It is noteworthy that while in the (super) minority on the Board of Supervisors politically, we have been able to garner unanimous support for these very important efforts from my Board colleagues.



Through the agenda compilation process, we have directed our Pima County legislative lobbyist to work with state legislators to introduce bills designed to address, and resolve, wildfire/flood mitigation, home title fraud, and home owner's insurance availability and premium affordability concerns.

Predictably, we have had successes and setbacks, and as we navigate through this legislative session, we wanted to report the current status, as we go to press, of these measures:

- House Bill 2292: Wildfire authority fund is still moving forward. It will enhance our ability to get additional funding for wildfire danger mitigation activities.
- House Bill 2619: Post-wildfire flood mitigation is still moving, and will enhance flood mitigation and remediation measures after wildfires.

We are told that both of these bills have a good chance of passage and signature by the governor. They will help with wildfire impacts

short term and with insurance rates, longer term.

The governor's budget provides additional monies for wildfire mitigation and we all continue to push for that. The legislature has not released any form of budget yet.

Other bills that would have made more significant modifications to insurance policies, such as providing for longer times before cancellation and more accurate underwriting standards, did not move forward this session.

We are told that the utility danger plan, which includes public safety power shutoffs, submitted by Arizona Public Service, the state's largest utility, has been approved by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management. Tucson Electric Power's similar plan is pending and is something we're monitoring. It also will have minor insurance rate implications.

Senate Bill 1479: The most significant home title fraud bill submitted this session, and a decent step forward, was signed recently by the governor and will become law on the general effective date, 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

We will continue to devote our efforts to these issues, and even though we might not succeed completely as we hoped this session, we are firm in our belief that by bringing attention to their importance, legislators will take notice and continue to battle on our behalf. Updates to follow as the legislative session and fiscal year deadline draw closer. And, yes, I love being your Supervisor.

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

Ward Update 4

The latest from Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee

As we enter May, I want to start by congratulating all of the graduates across the Vail School District. This



is such an exciting milestone, not just for students, but for the families, teachers, and staff who have supported them along the way. It takes an entire community to prepare our young people for what comes next, and Vail continues to do an incredible job.

As we transition into summer, we also begin to feel the impact of rising temperatures across our community. Tucson continues to experience more extreme heat days, with longer stretches of triple-digit temperatures each year. Staying safe in this environment means staying hydrated, limiting activity during peak hours, and checking in on neighbors, especially those who may be more vulnerable.

It also means making sure people have access to safe, livable conditions at home. Early in my time on the Council, one of the first code changes I brought forward focused on renter protections during extreme heat. After hearing from a constituent whose air conditioning had gone out while caring for an infant, and seeing there was no clear standard in city code for safe indoor temperatures, we worked to close that gap. In Tucson, this is not just about comfort, it is about safety.

As we head into summer, the City of Tucson also offers ways to stay cool and connected, including our public pool and splashpad at Purple Heart Park and other

amenities across the city. You can find updated information on hours and locations through Tucson Parks and Recreation (<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation>).

At the same time, we are coming out of our budget engagement process and preparing for a final vote in June. I want to thank city staff for the work they have done to bring forward a balanced budget. That said, I have been very clear that we still have deeper structural issues that must be addressed.

One of the biggest challenges I see is the level of General Fund dollars supporting our transit system, currently about \$65M a year. This is funding that would otherwise go toward core services like public safety, road maintenance, and parks. I continue to support finding a more sustainable funding structure, including reinstating fares for those who can afford to pay, so we can reduce pressure on the General Fund and better align resources with the community priorities I hear from residents everyday.

Until we begin to make meaningful progress on these structural issues, I have made it clear that I am not in a position to support the budget as it stands. These are difficult conversations, but they are necessary to ensure long-term stability for our city.

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

City of Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee
 520-791-3199
Ward4@tucsonaz.gov
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward4

VUSD Update

The Latest from Vail School District Superintendent John Carruth



In true Vail fashion, when big decisions that impact students need to be made, Vail pulls from its greatest resource, its community. VUSD enjoys strong partnerships with the Vail community in a place "Where Education Is a Community Effort" and where we all own the consequences and the results of our collective decisions and effort.

Over the course of the past few months, a committee of more than 50 parents, community members, and staff gathered and met to study whether or not to recommend that the Vail Governing Board call for reauthorization of the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Override in November of 2026. They also studied whether to recommend calling for a capital bond election to address Vail's aging buildings, safety concerns, and future growth needs.

The recommendations from the committee painted a clear picture. They value the high-quality programs provided for students that encourage students to gain a well-rounded education.

The M&O Override must be reauthorized by voters who live in Vail every five years, or the funding and the programs it supports will be reduced by an equal amount over three years until it is gone. The additional property tax that is in place that supports these programs for students would also be reduced in the same manner. The Vail community has supported

"John Carruth" continued on page 8

GREATER VAILCHAMBER UPDATE

The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls, President / CEO



The Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce is building momentum this spring with two signature events designed to connect businesses, celebrate progress, and invest in the future of our region.

On May 8, the Chamber will host its annual Golf Tournament, bringing together business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community partners for a day of networking, visibility, and friendly competition. More than just a day on the course, the tournament serves as a platform to strengthen relationships, showcase local businesses, and support the Chamber's ongoing work in economic development and community programming. From sponsorship opportunities to team participation, the event creates meaningful ways for businesses of all sizes to engage and be seen.

In addition, the Chamber is proud to celebrate its Inaugural State of the Region Breakfast at the Tech Park Event Center. This milestone event will bring together regional leaders, stakeholders, and community members to highlight key developments, share insights on growth, and outline a forward-looking vision for the Greater Vail area.

As Vail continues to grow, events like these play a critical role in ensuring that businesses remain connected, informed, and positioned for success. The State of the Region Breakfast will provide valuable updates on economic trends, infrastructure, and oppor-

"Dr. Denise Bowls" cont. on page 12

Rooted in the Desert: Why Native & Desert-Adapted Plants Just Make Sense

If you've lived in the Vail area for a bit, you've probably noticed something: some plants thrive here... and some very dramatically do not.

That's where native and desert-adapted plants come in—and why they're the real MVPs of desert gardening.

Native plants are species that have grown here naturally for generations. Desert-adapted plants, on the other hand, come from similar climates around the world and have learned the same survival tricks. Put them together, and you've got a plant palette that actually likes where it lives.

One of the biggest wins? Water savings. These plants are built for our conditions, so once established, they need far less water than traditional landscapes. In the desert, that's not just a perk—it's the whole game.

They also play a huge role in supporting local pollinators and wildlife. Birds, bees, and butterflies recognize these plants as home. When you plant native and desert-adapted varieties, your yard becomes more than just a place to chill—it becomes part of the ecosystem.

And let's talk about maintenance (or lack thereof). These plants are naturally more resilient to heat, pests, and tough soil, which means less babysitting and more enjoyment. That's our kind of gardening.

Now, a quick reality check: even desert plants need a good start. Plant them slightly high, build a basin, water deeply (not daily!), and give them a little extra attention during their first summer. Think of it as setting the founda-



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tion—once their roots are established, they'll take it from there.

The best part? Native and desert-adapted landscapes are anything but boring. You'll get bold blooms, interesting textures, and plants that shift with the seasons. It's not a static look—it's a living, breathing desert story.

If you're ready to stop fighting the desert and start gardening with it, we've got you covered.

Because in the desert... the right plants change everything!

By Lindsay Chavez

"Gail Griffin" cont. from page 2
administration issued tax forms based on laws that did not exist, assuming full conformity with federal tax changes before state law was updated.

Now, families are wondering whether they will have to redo their taxes, pay more later, or spend weeks fixing a mess they did not create.

Arizona legislative Republicans are holding the line, refusing to let any proposal from Hobbs force Arizonans to refile or pay more.

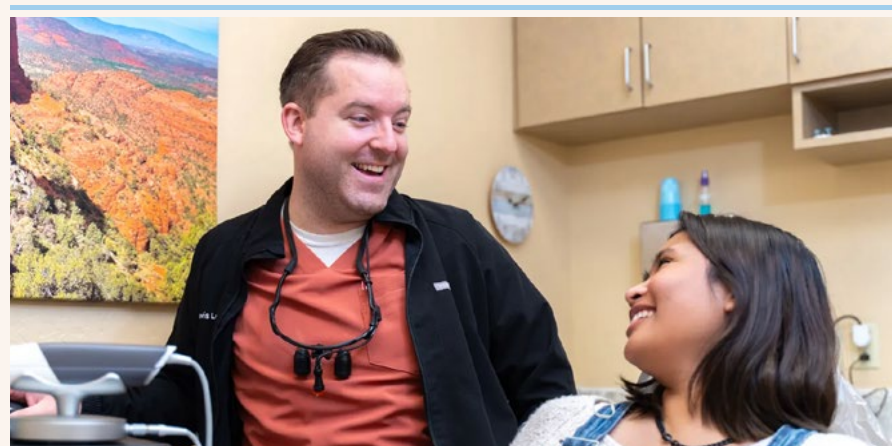
Republican lawmakers remain focused on bringing clarity and stability to Arizona's tax system, supporting full conformity while ensuring families have the clarity they need to plan ahead.

Gail Griffin
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington St.
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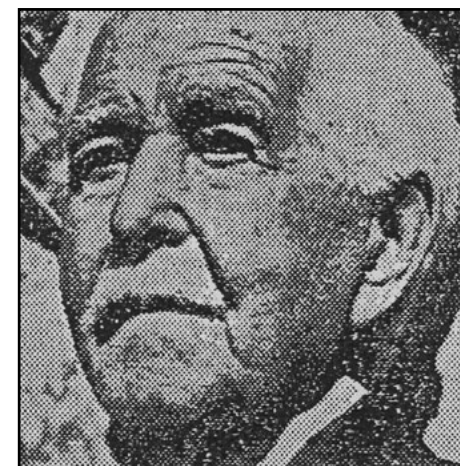
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What's in a Name: Davidson Canyon

Alexander Davidson was a homesteader, cowboy and miner. Davidson Canyon, Wash, Spring, and road are named for this Civil War veteran born in Ohio to Scottish immigrants. His family's odd characteristics included that their right thumb was shorter than the left, and their big toes stood out at an odd angle! He made the perilous voyage around the Horn to California in 1864. A short time later, friends "...asked me to go to Arizona and examine and dispose of some mines which had been left them by a brother". He traveled by buckboard stage from Los Angeles to Arizona. He found the mines to be practically worthless but managed to sell one for \$500. even though he "personally would not have given five cents for them."

In 1879 on a train trip he met an "important ecclesiastic from Rome come down to San Xavier to rob it of some of its treasures. He got sick on the train and I doctored him with some of my good brandy and whiskey." The cleric became quite talkative and shared his errand. The two met later and Da-



Alexander Davidson

vidson accompanied him to San Xavier. He recalled, "We were given a light and went into some kind of an underground room. There he found what he was after: two hammered pitchers of pure gold and a gold lace robe." The larger pitcher would have held about a gallon, the other about half that. Davidson asked where the gold was from, but got no answer.

Close calls and danger were the order of the day. Once in Tombstone's Blue Wing saloon he "heard several bullets whiz by ...the bullets were coming thick and fast, I never looked around but stepped a little lively and certainly was relieved when I flattened myself down behind the twenty inches of stone foundation of Allen's store." Another time he "heard a rumble and saw dense smoke near the window in the rock, then there came a crash." It

"Vail Preservation Society"
continued on page 16



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Our Readers Sound Off!

Our Letters Policy

We welcome a diversity of views in The Vail Voice. To submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your full name, and try to keep letters to 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,

What is the value of the Ten Commandments? Novelist Sara Orne Jewett tells of a woman visiting the home of a retired sea captain. She notices stakes scattered randomly about the property, painted white and trimmed in yellow, matching the captain's house, but in no discernible pattern. Captain Tilley explains that when he first plowed the ground, his plow snagged on large rocks just beneath the surface. He set stakes where the rocks lay to avoid them in the future. In essence, God gave the Ten Commandments saying, "These are the trouble spots in life. Avoid them, and you won't snag your life."

What does it mean for us to obey the Ten Commandments?

We think of obeying as "to comply with the command," but there is no word properly translated as "obey" in the Hebrew Scriptures. The closest word is shema, which means "listen." The King James Bible translated shema as "hear-ken," which is wonderful for it implies that we are to listen with intent or to listen with our heart, mind and soul.

Interestingly, our English word obey derives from the Latin word 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

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oboedire, consisting of the prefix ob, "toward," and the root word audire, "to hear." Literally, to obey is to listen toward.

Our attitude toward the Ten Commandments should not be just to comply with a set of rules or even to avoid the snags, but to hearken toward how God is leading us, listening to God's directions to us with heart, mind and soul.

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring attention to the illegal harvesting of water from Cienega Creek Preserve by Del Lago Golf course. They drive up the wash miles from the course (which is illegal as off-roading which is banned there) and use a generator to pump out water from the base of the dam into a water truck. They use this water to water grass and fill artificial ponds. This is not as important as recharging ground water and preserving the native plants and wildlife. This is criminal misuse of water in the desert and must be stopped. We are in a major drought and it is inappropriate to waste water. The dam was put in long ago when there was more abundance, and was used for

the purpose of water agriculture, not turf grass. This needs to stop.

James Guntis

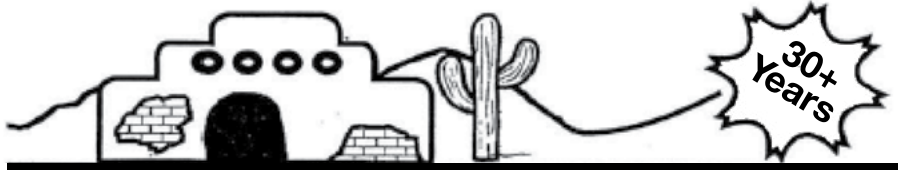
From the Editor

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:
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Chipotle construction at Houghton Town Center is underway with completion scheduled by end of year.



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Mario Motta, Jean Mueller, the Late Russell Porter, a Lunar Eclipse, and Me

Part 2

On 1 March of this year, Dr. Mario Motta, a nationally known cardiologist and an expert on the history of Stellafane and light pollution, and I, travelled to San Diego, in order to view the total lunar eclipse and to meet Jean Mueller.

As joyous as the total eclipse was, our visit to Palomar the afternoon before the eclipse was truly magical. Again, Russell Porter was right with us. While there I finally got to complete a dream. In my 77 years I have delivered more than 3150 lectures. I like to imagine that the very first lecture was at the opening of the great telescope. Mueller, as versed in the history of Palomar as Motta is with Stellafane, told us that the telescope was dedicated on 3 June 1948. Was my first lecture (Lecture zero) delivered that day? I was twelve days old. On this day, 77 years later, I finally turned that into a reality. I gave a brief lecture near the wonderful 200-inch mirror, where I quoted the opening lines from part I of Henry VI "Comets.. brandish your crystal tresses in the

sky." I gave a second version at the visitor center near the 18-inch Schmidt camera which I used with Gene and Carolyn Shoemaker for seven wondrous years. There I quoted, from memory, Macbeth's "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" speech.

Enter Russell Porter, who seemed to accompany us throughout this visit. We got to have a really special visit with the person who designed the telescope and whose sketches are among the finest in the world. Even though Russell Porter died before Mario was born, and when I was but a year old, it felt as though he had been recalled to life for us. Had he been alive I would have asked him, "In Berton Willard's biography of your life, he explained how you accepted Hale's offer of a position designing the 200-inch telescope. How many seconds did it take you to accept this life-changing proposition?"

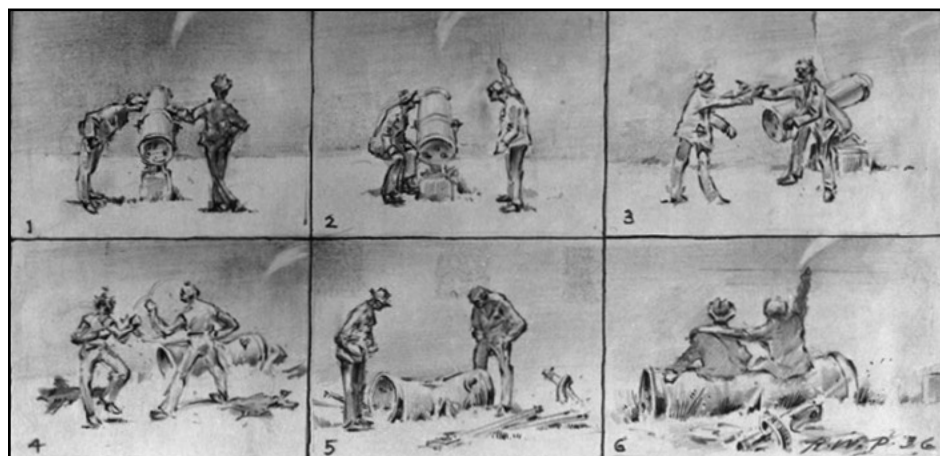
"Less than 3.14159 seconds," Porter might have replied with his trademark wide grin.

The precious words he inscribed on the front gables of Stellafane's pink clubhouse inspire us to this day and this night: From the first line of Psalm 19:

"The heavens declare the glory of God."

The picture below is a cartoon about comets, a Russell Porter

"Skyward" continued on page 25



"John Carruth" cont. from page 3
override funding and the additional programs it supports like art, music, PE, advanced courses, and smaller class sizes since 1993. Continuing the override would keep the programs and the tax in place that supports them. There would be no tax increase to continue the override.

There was nearly unanimous consent from the committee to recommend the Governing Board call for an override renewal election this year. They were also clear that there is a need for a bond to ensure safety, security, and strong learning environments for students and staff while addressing future growth needs at some point in the not-too-distant future.

One of my key takeaways is that the members of the committee want to preserve Vail's high-quality staff, outstanding programs, and smaller class sizes. More work will be done to make a determination of what to recommend to the Vail Governing Board, who will make the final decision whether or not to call for the renewal of the override and the possibility of another bond over the next several weeks.

The month of May also brings the opportunity to celebrate our graduates. Be sure to look for celebrations of our valedictorians and salutatorians in the June edition of the Vail Voice. We also want to share some exciting news about a few of our graduates and where they will be going in the coming months. Check them out in the center pages of this issue. As you read about these young people and their successes that have led them to their next steps, know that your support of things like the override helps provide the programs that make them possible.

One thing we have learned is the importance of producing well-rounded young people for their next steps in life. If students only take rigorous courses, they

are at a disadvantage when applying for highly competitive programs and colleges. These institutions are looking for well-rounded young people, not just high GPAs. Thankfully, the high-quality offerings provided in Vail, like art, music, PE, advanced and gifted courses, etc., enable children to experience those things and set them up to be competitive as they prepare for their life beyond high school.

That investment by our community has certainly paid off for these students. It is concrete evidence that, in partnership with you, we are delivering on our motto, "Where Education is a Community Effort".

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.

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Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue.

By Chuck Colbath

In the roaring twenties, one of the most popular songs was "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue." I learned to play it on our organ, as I had the sheet music as part of my instruction. The song is a fun, upbeat piece that starts "Five foot two, eyes of blue, but oh what those five foot could do, has any-one seen my gal?"

This song appeared in my life at a time when I met one of our new neighbors, Mary Eileen Dixey, Miss Dixey to me at age 8, and Eileen later on as I became an adult.

Eileen was five foot two, eyes of blue, and grew up in Boston. Her dad was in charge of making the coffee for the Ritz Carlton in Boston. In those days they used a large central coffee pot, with each room connected for coffee through brass lines. Interestingly, her father told her never to use soap

when washing a coffee pot. He said it would hurt the flavor and to simply rinse with cold water and wipe the pot out with a towel.

Eileen was in charge of the Occupational Therapy Department at the New Hampshire State Hospital. She gave me my first job at 8 mowing her lawn, with a timecard and all! When our family took a six-hour drive to Maine, she gave my sister and me each a bag with things inside individually wrapped to be opened when "you see a cow" or "you see a yellow VW beetle" and more. Before cell phones and without TV, it kept us occupied with puzzles and such for our long trip and week-long vacation off the grid.

Eileen and I were great buddies. She took me fishing often, even ice fishing when I was ten and she was 60. When Eileen was ninety, she had moved into a retirement center. I would pick her up and we would go to lunch. We were still great friends for over 30 years,

which she would tell many. We are fortunate in life when we meet special people with whom we can share wonderful experiences, while always remaining true friends.

Who knew at age 8 that my best friend who lived next door would be fifty years my senior? All it takes is being young at heart, open to new adventures, and sharing the things we love and have experienced with those we care the most about. This is where the best memories can be found. That level of caring has helped guide me to this day.

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



Oil on Canvas,
Carol Colbath

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

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"Dr. Denise Bowls"
continued from page 3
tunities that impact both small
businesses and larger employers
alike.

Together, these events reflect the Chamber's commitment to fostering a vibrant, collaborative business environment. Whether on the golf course or in the conversation around our region's future, the focus remains the same: building relationships, supporting growth, and strengthening the Greater Vail community.

For more information or to get involved, connect with the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce and be part of what's ahead.

Dr. Denise Bowls
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Community Effort Brings Affordable Produce to Vail Residents

On the third Saturday of each month, Greater Vail Community ReSources partners with the 3000 Club to bring the popular Market on the Move to our community, an effort that is making fresh, nutritious food more accessible while reducing food waste across Arizona.

Market on the Move is simple, affordable, and open to everyone. For a \$10 donation, participants receive up to 60 pounds of fresh produce, including fruits and vegetables that might otherwise go to waste as well as other food items. There are no eligibility requirements, and you do not need to be a food bank participant to take part. In fact, broad community participation is what keeps the program strong and sustainable. When neighbors from all walks of life show up, it helps ensure this valuable resource remains available for everyone. Market on The Move complements our food bank services by expanding access to fresh, affordable food beyond those we traditionally serve.

This program can also help build community connection and shared abundance. Some participants find they receive more produce than their household can use, and we encourage them to share the extra with neighbors, friends, or even donate surplus items back to the food bank. Some items can also be repurposed for animals such as chickens or goats, ensuring that nothing goes to waste.

During the warmer months, distribution takes place from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m., or until supplies run out.

thevailvoice.com

Behind the scenes, local groups of volunteers make it all possible. We are currently seeking small groups of 6 to 10 volunteers each month to help set up, bag produce, and support distribution. Volunteers should be prepared to arrive early and play an active role in bringing this program to life.

So, mark your calendars for Market on The Move on the 3rd Saturday of the month, at ReSources, between the railroad tracks. 13105 E. Colossal Cave Rd. Vail AZ 85641. To learn more about ReSources and our mission to alleviate hunger and assist with basic needs, please visit our website at www.resourcesvail.org.

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



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VUSD Senior Earns Appointment

For Cienega High School senior Arthur Brock, the path to the U.S. Naval Academy began years ago with a desire to serve.

Brock has been accepted to the prestigious academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he will report for induction in June.

"It's something I've been working toward since early high school," Brock said. "I always knew I wanted to serve in some capacity."

Brock attended Desert Willow Elementary and Old Vail Middle School before enrolling at Cienega, where he built a resume centered on academics, athletics, and leadership. He holds a 4.0 GPA and has taken a range of dual enrollment courses during his time at Cienega.

Brock said the rigor of his coursework helped prepare him for the academy's competitive selection process.

"Without challenging classes, there wouldn't have been a chance," he said. "I like that Cienega didn't require us to take the most rigorous classes, but we always had plenty of options."

Admission to a U.S. service academy requires more than strong grades. Candidates must complete a multi-step process that includes a physical fitness assessment, medical clearance, essays, interviews, and a congressional nomination.

Brock said the Vail School District's physical education pro-



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ment to U.S. Naval Academy

grams helped prepare him over the years. He participated in sports throughout his time in the district and said his high school strength and conditioning class played a key role in his physical readiness for the academy.

"Having access to that kind of training and consistency makes a big difference," he said.

Admission to the United States Naval Academy is highly competitive, with only a small fraction of qualified applicants accepted each year. Brock secured a nomination from U.S. Congressman Juan Ciscomani.

At the academy, Brock will receive a full scholarship covering tuition, housing, and meals, along with a stipend. Students

commit to at least five years of military service following graduation. Brock plans to commission as a Navy officer and hopes to eventually become a Navy SEAL.

He credits the Vail School District for helping him reach this milestone, pointing to access to advanced coursework, supportive teachers, and extracurricular opportunities.

"The district gives you the opportunity to challenge yourself," Brock said. "They don't force it, but if you want it, it's there."

Brock graduates from Cienega in May and will then travel to Maryland to begin Plebe Summer, an intensive eight-week training program that marks the start of academy life.



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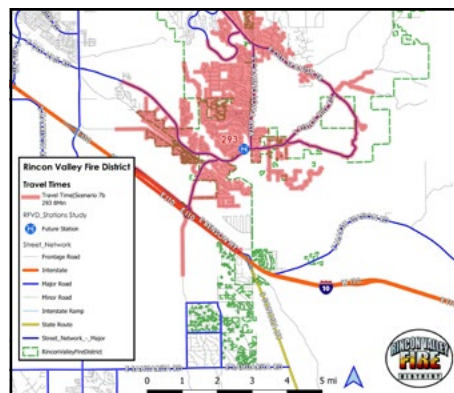
"Headline Story"

continued from page 1

The renovation of the CLA station will provide a safer work environment for firefighters. "What we want to do is get that station up to modern standards where we reduce their cancer risk, and reduce their cardiovascular risk, and just make it a nicer place for them to live while they are on duty", Chief Tucker concluded.

The entire project will be paid for by existing bonds and will cost about \$8m to build. These funds will also pay for about half of the cost for the renovations at the CLA station, although additional funds will be needed to finish the renovation project.

The new station will be divided up into zones. The Chief explained "The hot zone, one zone, cold zone. Everything is sectioned out



based on the zones so firefighters aren't walking through dirty areas to get to the clean area."

Construction will begin in July of this year, and if everything goes according to plan the new station could be open by the end of 2027.

By Lucretia Free

"Vail Preservation Society"

continued from page 6

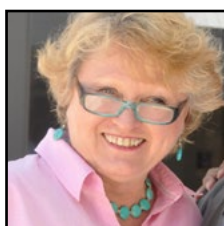
was the big earthquake of 1887. Its effects were felt as far away at western Texas. During the winter of 1879-1880, he recollected that nine inches of snow fell in Tucson on February 17th. Everyone was scrambling to find a place to sleep out of the weather. He paid \$1.50 to sleep on a billiard table at the Palace Hotel! That would be about \$52. today.

Davidson landed in Pantano in 1880. Tulley and Ochoa, who owned much of the land, operated a successful freighting company, and a store there. Tulley and Ochoa were hauling supplies from the railroad to nearby military posts. Business was booming. Not wanting to pass up an opportunity Davidson built a store on the north side of the tracks. Business was very good because the SPRR was laying track through the area. Daily receipts ran as high as \$3,000.00, which he would hide in a sack!

Davidson was Justice of the Peace for a time at Pantano. One day he was asked to marry a couple and struck off on foot. "They lived four or five miles away, had several children, and one baby in arms but had never married. They wanted me to kiss the bride, but I deferred. Besides, they did not pay for their marriage. You see we had to hand in a report and \$1.50 to the county."

Davidson's last big venture was a goat ranch near the Tucson Mountains. Interviewed about a month before he died at the age of 95 in 1938, he said, "I have always tried to leave every place I've been a little better than I found it."

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.



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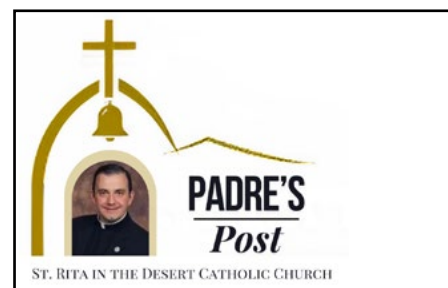
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Dear Vail Community,

As we continue to celebrate the joy and peace of Easter, I am especially grateful for the blessings our parish, St. Rita in the Desert, received at the Easter Vigil, where we welcomed two new Christians into our community.

The Easter Vigil—our longest and most beautiful liturgical celebration—is rich in symbolism: fire and candlelight, incense and sacred chant, water and holy oils, all culminating in the Eucharist, the heart of our faith. It is a powerful reminder of renewal, hope, and new life in Christ.

That same spirit of community and renewal continues in the life of our parish. We are grateful to the Vail community and surrounding area for supporting our recent rummage sale. The funds raised are helping to reduce our parish debt and support the ongoing life and mission of our church.

As we enter the month of May, we look forward to several special events. The Catholic Church dedicates May to the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoring her as the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven. On Saturday, May 2 at 8:00 AM, we will celebrate our First Saturday Mass in her honor, followed by a May Crowning with our First Holy Communion students.

We will also celebrate our patroness, St. Rita of Cascia, with several parish events. On Saturday, May 16 at 6:00 PM, we will host a 4-course Italian wine dinner under the Ramada on our "Padre's Post"

continued on page 20

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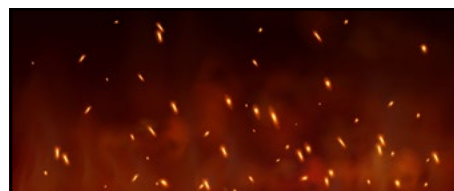


Two Holidays in May

The first holiday; Pesach Sheni, observed on May 1st, originates in the Torah when a group of Jews were unable to bring the Passover offering because they were ritually impure. They approached Moshe and asked, "Why should we be left out?" In response, G-d established Pesach Sheni as a second opportunity one month after Passover to celebrate. Unlike the original Pesach, chametz was permitted in the home, and the observance was simpler, highlighting its theme: it's never too late to reconnect.

The Rebbe Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson emphasized that Pesach Sheni teaches that nothing is ever lost. Even someone who was distant, impure, or simply "on a far road" can return. The Rebbe explained that the very fact the people demanded another chance shows a Jew's inner desire to fulfill G-d's will. The message is practical: no matter what happened in the past, one can always repair, restart, and reconnect. There is always a second chance.

The Second holiday; Lag BaOmer, on May 5th, marks two historic events. First, the cessation of the plague among the students of the talmudic sage Rabbi Akiva, who died during the Omer period. Second, it is the yearzeit (day of passing) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the Zohar, who revealed deep mystical teachings on this day. Because of this, Lag BaOmer is celebrated with bonfires, joy, and outdoor gatherings, symbolizing the spiritual light revealed in the world.



The Rebbe taught that Lag BaOmer represents unity and inner joy. Rabbi Akiva's students were punished for lacking proper respect for one another, and their passing stopped on this day, highlighting the importance of unity. The Rebbe often emphasized increasing in ahavas Yisrael (love for a fellow Jew) specifically on Lag BaOmer. Just as Rabbi Shimon revealed hidden light, every Jew has the ability to illuminate the world through kindness, unity, and Torah. Even in a time of mourning, Lag BaOmer teaches that one spark of love can transform darkness into celebration.

Rabbi Sruly Shemtov can be reached at rabbi@jewishvailaz.com

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



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Summer in Vail brings long sunny days, monsoon storms, and increased pest activity. Heat and seasonal rain create ideal conditions for desert pests to thrive. Here are five of the most common:

- 1. Scorpions** The Arizona bark scorpion is the only species in the U.S. considered potentially dangerous to humans. They hide in cool, dark places by day and hunt insects at night.
- 2. American Cockroaches** These pests thrive in warm climates and often surge during monsoon season, when heavy rains drive them out of sewers and landscaping.
- 3. Ants** Warm soil speeds colony growth, often pushing ants indoors. Common species include Argentine, harvester, and pavement ants.

- 4. Crickets** Cricket populations spike after monsoons. Drawn to lights and moisture, they gather near patios and garages—and attract scorpions.
 - 5. Pack Rats** These rodents build large nests from debris and can damage wiring and insulation, creating costly and hazardous issues.
- Protecting Your Home Seal cracks, reduce outdoor lighting, and keep yards clean and well-maintained to limit pest activity.

For more information or professional treatment options, visit **Bill's Home Service**.com or call **(520) 346-4564**.



"Padre's Post"
continued from page 16

parish grounds. This evening will also serve as a fundraiser to help reduce our rectory debt and support our future church building fund. We are honored to welcome Reverend Stan Szczapa, who will be celebrating 55 years of priesthood, a beautiful witness of faithful service to the Church.

Finally, on Friday, May 22 at 5:30 PM, we will celebrate a Solemn

Mass, followed by a procession and parish in honor of St. Rita. All are welcome to join us for these joyful celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our parish community. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please visit stritainthedesert.org.

By Reverend Alonzo M. García



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Events

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 +.

During the month May the Art Gallery at the Arizona Senior Academy* will continue to feature oil paintings by Tucson artist Candy Schultheis. Located in the ASA Building lobby, the gallery is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and during ASA events.

Fri, May 1, 11:30 a.m.

ASA*Concert: University of Arizona faculty artist, cellist Theodore Buchholz, and guest pianist Mack McCray perform an engaging all-Beethoven program including Variations on The Magic Flute, Piano Sonata Op.109, and Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor.

Sat. May 2, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Award winning international organist and Vail resident, Jessie Jewitt, will be performing Francis Poulenc's Concerto in G Minor with members of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra at St Michaels and All Angels Church, 602 N Wilmot in Tucson.

Mon, May 4, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Joaquin Ruiz, Ph.D., Director of Biosphere 2, U of A Professor of Geosciences, and Inaugural Vice President of the university's Global Environmental Futures, "Biosphere 3."

Wed, May 6, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Susan A. Crane, Ph.D., U of A Professor of Modern European History, "How a Historian Remembers Nothing." In this lecture, Dr. Crane discusses what qualifies as memorable and what gets lost or erased. She considers ways in which memories of "Nothing" shape historical narratives as well as social justice efforts.

Fri, May 8 (various times)

Music Between the Tracks. 5:30 p.m.; ES Choir 5:50 p.m.; VAHS Choir 6:15 p.m.; MMHS Jazz Band 6:35 p.m.; CHS Jazz Band at Vail Coffee Stop Land Between the Tracks 13105 E. Colossal Cave Rd in Vail

Fri, May 8, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The U of A Fred Fox Graduate Wind Quintet plays music from the modern wind quintet repertoire. Members include Kayla Blackburn, flute; Sara Hammelef, oboe; Eli Anderson, clarinet; Jason Frogget, horn; and Oliver Zhao, bassoon.

Mon, May 11, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Wed, May 13, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Phoebe Carpentier, Communications Specialist of Western Museums Association and Ph.D. student at the U of A, "Our Roots: 'First Generation' Southwest Native Women Artists Speak." She shows how the art by native women she collected for the Arizona State Museum expresses Indigenous philosophies and advances visual sovereignty.

Fri, May 15, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Hot Club of Tucson plays Django Reinhardt-style gypsy jazz, with violinist Nick Coventry, guitarist Matt Mitchell, and upright bassist Evan Dain.

Mon, May 18, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Wed, May 20, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Steve Smith, Ph.D., Professor, U of A School of Natural Resources and the Environment, "Stories of the Plants We Overlook."

Fri, May 22, 11:30 a.m.

ASA * Concert: Classical guitarists Jose Luis Puerta and Alfredo Vazquez return to ASA to play duo compositions from their latest album, Inter-cambio, featuring new works by Latin American composers.

Mon, May 25, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Deborah Robin, Ed.D., Docent Emerita, Art Institute of Phoenix and Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, "Picasso & Matisse: Rivals Who Revolutionized Modern Art (Part 1 of 2)." Dr. Robin

explores early 1900s Paris, where Picasso and Matisse launched two of modern art's most significant careers in history.

Wed, May 27, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Deborah Robin, Ed.D., Docent Emerita, Art Institute of Phoenix and Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, "Picasso & Matisse: Rivals Who Revolutionized Modern Art (Part 2)." Dr. Robin shows their masterpieces, shares background stories and describes how their fierce rivalry sparked Cubism and Fauvism, reshaping perspective and color.

Sun, May 31, 3 p.m.

ASA* Concert: The Arizona Women's Chorus performs their Spring Concert "The Tides of Life," featuring the newly commissioned work by director of the Tucson Jazz Festival, Khristi Dodge, with lyrics by Katherine Byrnes.

Mon, June 1, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Alex La Pierre, Co-founder of Borderlandia, "Sonora's Spirit: Bacanora." The speaker will describe the distillation process in Sonora's Sierra Madres and uncover roots of agave culture in northwestern Mexico by way of geography, history, and culinary arts. He will provide an understanding of mezcal, tequila, sotol and bacanora and what makes them distinct.

Fri, June 5, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Blue Skies Trio - vocalist/baritone ukelele player Gabrielle Pietrangelo, vibraphone player Ben DeGain, and upright bassist Thoger Lund - perform gems from the 1930's and 40's American Songbook.

Sun, June 7, 3 p.m.

ASA* Concert: Talented young artists - pianist and violinist Ayla Moreno, and cellist Max Tagawa - present a recital of music by Beethoven, Chopin and Handel.

*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.

HEAT OPTIMIST CLUB

Heat Optimist Club Essay Winner

Grace Reimann from Rita Ranch won the Heat Optimist Club Essay contest with her essay on "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me" which is the Optimist International topic for this year. She explained that while volunteering did not seem like much at the time, it had a significant impact on the people in her community. Grace and her grandfather attended our January club meeting, where she read her essay to the members present. It was quite a moving essay. By winning at the club level, Grace received a \$100 prize, and her essay will now advance to the Arizona Optimist District level. At this level, her essay will compete against other essays from across Arizona. If she wins at that level, she will receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Congratulations to Grace on her achievement.



(left to right) Jim Pekny, Club President, and Grace Reimann Essay Winner

The Heat Optimist Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at Denny's in the Houghton Town Center. Guests are welcome. Visit our website <https://heatoptimistclub.org> for more information about our organization.

By Jim Pekny
President, Heat Optimist Club

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CONTEMPLATIONS

Thoughtful Ponderances ...

A Celebrity Comes To Vail

Our city of Vail is known for its small-town, rural atmosphere, its proximity to the world-famous Saguaro National Park and some spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Additionally, we are constantly ranked among the top school districts in Arizona for academic performance.

And now our community can add another accolade to our list of good



medal honors—a celebrity of notable infamy has been discovered in our ranks and lives among us.

Renowned for her stunning good looks, she's featured in a national television commercial, full page ads in Better Homes and Gardens and People Magazine, and even on the coveted back cover of National Geographic. A full-time resident in the Rancho del Lago Del Webb community, her name is "Hitails Vera Mooner".

And she is a cat. The four-legged kind.

"Vera" as she is called, catapulted into infamy with assistance "Contemplations" cont. on page 26



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May is for Mom

Elisabeth Bell's
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Word Search

Movie Actresses 1

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

ADAMS, Amy	CUTHBERT, Elisha	LANE, Diane
ALBA, Jessica	DAVIS, Hope	LANGE, Jessica
ALLEN, Joan	DENCH, Judi	MCDORMAND, Frances
BARRYMORE, Drew	DIAZ, Cameron	MIRREN, Helen
BENING, Annette	FANNING, Dakota	MOORE, Demi
BERRY, Halle	FOSTER, Jodie	PALTROW, Gwyneth
BIEL, Jessica	GUGINO, Carla	PAQUIN, Anna
BLANCHETT, Cate	HATHAWAY, Anne	RICCI, Christina
BLETHYN, Brenda	HUNTER, Holly	SWANK, Hilary
BLUNT, Emily	HUSTON, Anjelica	THERON, Charlize
CLOSE, Glenn	JOLIE, Angelina	THOMPSON, Emma
CONNELLY, Jennifer	KEENER, Catherine	WATSON, Emily
CUSACK, Joan		

Supporting the Mental Wellness of Our Vail Community

In a growing and vibrant community like Vail, Arizona, it's easy to stay focused on the many things that keep us busy—family life, careers, school activities, and everything in between. But behind the scenes, many individuals and families are quietly navigating stress, anxiety, relationship challenges, and life transitions.

At Mindful Vision Counseling, we believe mental health care should feel accessible, personalized, and rooted in the community it serves. We are proud to offer services in the Vail area, supporting teens, adults, and families with compassionate, professional care.

A Whole-Person Approach

Our practice focuses on the connection between mental, emotional, and physical well-being. We work collaboratively with each client to create individualized plans that support meaningful, long-term growth.

We provide support for:

- Anxiety & stress
- Depression & mood concerns
- Trauma & PTSD
- Teen & family challenges
- ADHD & focus concerns
- Life transitions & burnout

Our goal is simple: to create a space where individuals feel heard, supported, and empowered.

Local Care. Flexible Options.

We offer in-person counseling in Vail and Tucson, along with virtual sessions across Arizona, making it easier to access care in a way that fits your life.

Whether you are a parent, teen, or adult navigating daily stressors, we are here to help.

We Want To Hear From Vail

As members of this community,

we know the best way to serve is to listen.

What types of mental health support would be most helpful for you or your family?
Are there resources you wish were more available locally?
Would workshops, support groups, or school-based services make a meaningful difference?

We invite community members, parents, educators, and local organizations to share their input so we can continue to grow in ways that truly support Vail's needs.

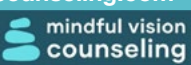
By A. Whitney Shea, LPC-S, CAS-DCS, ADHD-CCSP
Owner & Clinical Director, Mindful Vision Counseling



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 mindful vision counseling

"Skyward" continued from page 8

series of sketches about a fight over a comet. Notice the shape of the telescope in the fifth sketch. Pictures used with the kind permission of Dr. Mario Motta.

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.



Women In History- Martie Maierhauser

This year Cienega Creek chapter's women in history recipient was Martie Maierhauser. Originally from South Dakota, in 1962, at just 21 years old and midway through her junior year studying English and Biology, she moved to Vail, Arizona, with Joe Maierhauser, operator and director of Colossal Cave Mountain Park. She soon began working alongside him as a co-operator, and they married in 1965.

From her first visit, Martie was captivated by the cave and its surrounding desert landscape. At that time, the park covered only 40 acres. As the Vail area grew, she and Joe recognized the importance of protecting the cave and its viewshed. Over time, they purchased surrounding land visible from the cave ramada, helping expand the protected area to 2,000 acres and ensuring its preservation for future generations.

In 1988, the Maierhausers reached an agreement with Pima County to transfer protected lands to the park foundation. In recent years, that land has been transferred to the county for permanent conservation. In 2005, Martie founded the Cienega Watershed Partnership and served as its first president, documenting the region's environmental and cultural history.

After Joe's passing in 2007, Martie stepped into his role as operator and director of the park, continuing their shared mission. She has since retired. More recently, she donated her home, "Bear Claw,"

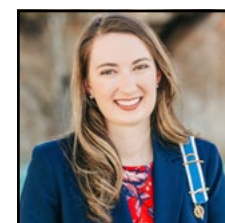


to the Vail Preservation Society to support local history. She remains active in preservation efforts, contributes to community projects, and enjoys time with her family.

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

The content contained herein does not necessarily represent the position of the NSDAR. Hyperlinks to other sites are not the responsibility of the NSDAR, the state organizations or individual DAR chapters.

Sierra Hansen - State American History Committee Chairman, State Pages Committee Co-Chair, Organizing Chapter Regent of Cienega Creek Chapter and Arizona Daughters of the American Revolution





SEAC May 2026 Update

The Leisure Resources Committee chaired by Linda Broadwater and has two sub-committees that are an integral part of the Leisure Resources Committee. The overall purpose of the committee is to promote opportunities for healthy life styles and self-improvement for residents of South East Pima County. The specific sub-committees and their responsibilities are:

Parks, Trails and Recreation

- work with government agencies to provide planning input representing the needs for future the future—this includes parks, trails and recreational facilities and opportunities for the enjoyment of the community (i.e. development of Esmond Station Regional Park on land located on Mary Ann Cleveland/Houghton, which has been discussed by Steve Christy, district 4 Supervisor and Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman, Nikki Lee in previous issues of the Vail Voice.
- monitor use of and maintenance of current parks, trails and recreational endeavors in
- South East Pima County
- research resident concerns presented by community members and work with appropriate agencies for an applicable resolution
- attend government agency advisory and committee meetings

Library

- work with government agencies on the preservation of current assets of the Edmond Station-W. Anne Gibson Library
- support programs and activities provided at the library and projects offered by Friends of the Library
- research resident concerns

presented by community members and work with the library to assist in resolving any concerns

- attend Pima County Library Meetings

South East Area Council of Pima County is looking for additional members to serve on committees. If you are interested in the leisure resources of your community contact South East Area Council of Pima County by email at seac@seazcouncil.org. Every resident's input and opinion is important.

By Carol Wagner Williams
seac@seazcouncil.org

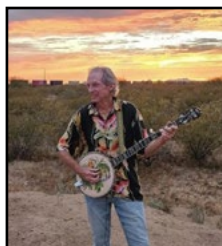
"Contemplations" cont. from page 23

from her owner and "manager", Lisa-Maria Padilla, a resident in the Rancho del Lago Del Webb neighborhood. This alluring Abyssinian with her striking good looks and purr-suasive purr-sonality has climbed the cat-walk of success into feline infamy.

According to Ms. Padilla, who raises Abyssinian cats and trains them to perform, "The television commercial was a highlight. Vera nailed the role as an alluring, athletic feline, casually strolling along the back of a sofa—exactly the graceful look that the directors were hoping for".

All kitty-ing aside, we can celebrate our new little neighbor as she claws her way to stardom in her paw-si-tive and purr-fessional role--climbing the catwalk of success; into the national spotlight, and cat-a-pulted into feline infamy, to be fur-ever celebrated and adored.

Khevin Barnes lives in the Del Webb community of Vail, along with his wife, two cats, a tortoise and an infinite number of unidentified desert critters.





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For many homeowners, a large portion of their financial value is tied up in their home. But that value doesn't have to stay locked away. A Home Equity Line of Credit, better known as a HELOC, can offer a flexible way to access funds when you need them most.

Here in Southern Arizona, where homes often grow and change with the seasons, adding shade structures, updating outdoor spaces, or tackling long-overdue upgrades, a HELOC can be a practical way to fund those projects over time.

A HELOC works a bit like a credit card, but it's secured by your home. Instead of receiving a lump sum upfront, you're approved for a credit limit and can draw from it as needed. That flexibility makes it especially useful when costs aren't fixed or fully known ahead of time.

So when does a HELOC actually make sense?

For many homeowners, it starts with a specific goal. Home improvement projects are one of the most common uses, whether it's refreshing a kitchen, repairing a roof after monsoon season, or investing in energy-efficient upgrades to keep cooling costs down. Because you can draw funds as needed, a HELOC helps manage costs as a project evolves.

Others use a HELOC to consolidate higher-interest debt. By shifting balances into a lower-rate option, it can simplify monthly payments and potentially reduce overall interest, if there's a clear plan in place.

It can also serve as a financial

safety net. Life doesn't always follow a script, and having access to funds for unexpected expenses can provide stability without needing to tap into savings or take out multiple loans.

That said, timing matters. A HELOC is tied to your home, so it's important to consider your overall financial picture before opening one. Is your income steady? Are your current expenses manageable? Do you have a clear idea of how you'd use the funds?

When there's a defined purpose behind the decision, a HELOC tends to feel like a tool. Without that clarity, it can become just another balance to manage.

Another factor to consider is when you open it. Many homeowners wait until they urgently need funds, which can lead to rushed decisions. Exploring your options ahead of time allows you to understand how a HELOC works and decide if it fits before the pressure is on.

For those who decide it's the right move, today's options offer flexibility. Homeowners can typically borrow anywhere from \$10,000 to \$250,000, use only what they need, and avoid prepayment penalties if they choose to pay it off early.

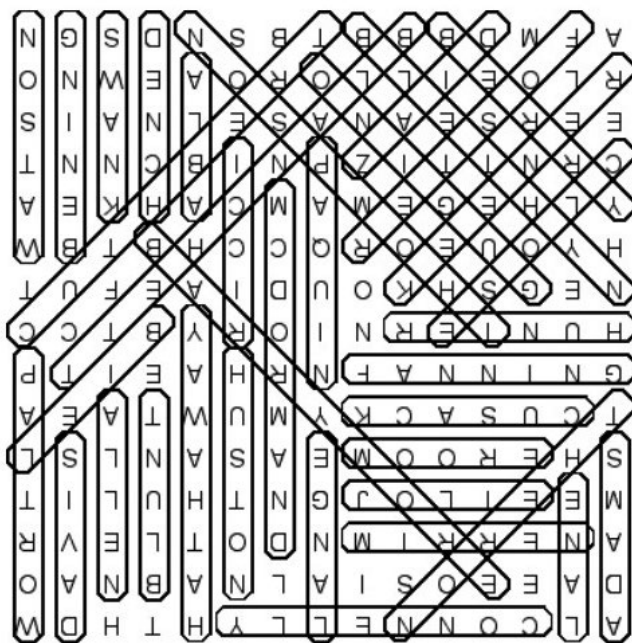
Right now, there's also an added incentive to explore this option. With Hughes Federal Credit Union, applicants who apply between April 1 and December 31, 2026, can have fees waived up to \$975, helping reduce upfront costs and make it easier to get started.

To learn more or explore your options, visit HughesFCU.org/HELOC.



Word Search | Solved

The hidden movie title is: THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS



Movie Actresses 1



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