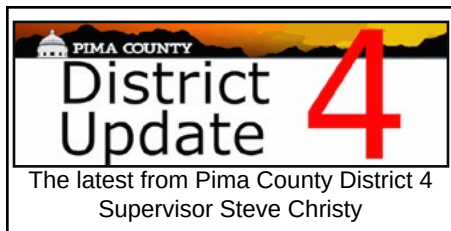


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

June Events!
6/21- Father's Day

See Events on pg. 21!

Word Search
on Page
24
Answer Key: Pg. 27



To this day, I carry with me the memory of our community's grief and concern over the teen automobile-accident fatality on South Houghton Road almost ten years ago. We heard from many residents during forums held at that time with various Pima County agencies, such as the Sheriff's Department and the Department of Transportation. Immediately, speed feedback signs were deployed and eventually, long-needed improvements were made to Houghton Road.



More recently, your District 4 office has seen an uptick in the number of constituent traffic safety reports near our area high schools, and we're noting as well, a related rise in actual traffic accidents, several serious in nature. After extensive analysis by local agencies of traffic patterns, areas, and times of heightened congestion, and of the accidents themselves, some tangible actions were taken to attempt to mitigate the potential for mishaps, including the installation of signage and rumble strips in roadways near schools as well as enhanced surveillance by law enforcement.

But what was discovered as the most apparent factor in the cause of accidents was the age and inexperience of the drivers involved. Obviously, school-age kids just having received permission to drive are the most vulnerable in our heavily trafficked locales. Upon further discernment, we noted - with surprise - that driver's education courses are no longer offered in high school curricula, and haven't been for some time.

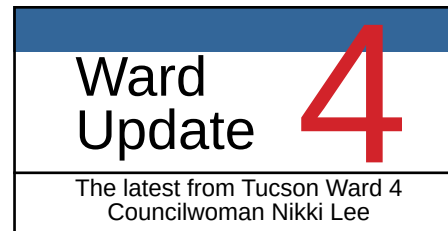
After discussing the matter with the Pima County Health Department leadership, our team is investigating ways to align Pima County and Vail Unified School District resources to establish a driver's education program for VUSD high school students. Bear in mind, that we have just initiated this process and details are not yet available. As we move further down this road, so to speak, we will share our progress on this important initiative.

You may have noticed that the Transportation Department has powered on the much-requested traffic signal at Old Spanish Trail and Camino Loma Alta. The intersection's signalization is expected to improve traffic flow and enhance safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians in this developing area.

In other transportation news, Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director Mike Ortega recently announced he has instituted new internal policies to avoid delays and drawn-out construction timelines for RTA road projects, and stated his goal is to set up the recently-renewed RTA so that the entire program will be completed in 20 years, and not just started during the two-decade period. Significant in Ortega's listing of prioritized projects is the Colossal Cave Road improvement in our own southeast region that could start sooner than originally programmed.

Finally, congratulations to Vail Cienega for winning the 2026 State AIA 5A Boys Volleyball Title on May 16! According to news reports, it only "took about an hour to dismantle Chandler Arizona College Prep in three sets" to achieve victory. Well done, champs!

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



I hope everyone is having a great start to the summer season. I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few updates on important projects and infrastructure improvements happening across our corner of Tucson. From park upgrades and new recreational amenities to major roadway improvements, there is a lot in progress that will continue improving quality of life for residents in Ward 4 and the surrounding area.



Purple Heart Park

Last month, two brand new playgrounds were installed at Purple Heart Park after the previous playground equipment failed a safety inspection. These new playgrounds were funded through the Ward 4 Council Office budget. Thank you to all of the community members who participated in the survey process and helped select the playground designs.

Over the next three years, residents can also expect to see several voter-approved improvements at the park, including:

- New basketball court
- Parking lot renovations and expansion
- Renovated walking paths
- New ramada
- Skate park and fencing improvements
- Pool plaster, tile, and deck renovations

Robert A. Price Sr. Park

A new train and plane-themed park is moving forward at 7001 S. Wilmot Rd. Utility construction is

expected to begin this summer, with park amenities following afterward.

This future community park will include:

- Little League and softball fields with lighting
- Multi-use sports fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse
- Age-specific playgrounds with shade canopies
- Splash pad with shade
- Ramadas and shaded seating areas
- Restroom facilities

This project will bring significant recreational opportunities to the southeast side and help meet the needs of our growing community.

Valencia Road: Kolb to Houghton

Construction on the Valencia Road improvement project is now approximately 70% complete, with anticipated completion later this summer.

Remaining work includes:

- Final paving
- Landscaping
- Street lighting and signals
- Public art installation
- Roadway signage and pavement markings

This project will improve traffic flow, roadway safety, and connectivity for residents and commuters in the area.

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.

-Nikki

City of Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee

📞 520-791-3199

✉ Ward4@tucsonaz.gov

🌐 www.tucsonaz.gov/ward4

There was a time when many of the things we rely on today were considered impossible. Expanding communities, new businesses, advanced technology, educational growth, and even personal dreams often began with someone saying, "That will never happen." Yet history continues to prove that many things are not truly impossible — they are simply unfamiliar.



Communities grow because people are willing to believe in progress before everyone else can see the outcome. Business owners open doors without guarantees. Families rebuild after setbacks. Leaders step into difficult roles and work through uncertainty. Growth rarely begins with certainty. It begins with vision, effort, and persistence.

However, there is another challenge we do not discuss enough: the difference between impossible and impassable.

Impossible suggests something cannot be done. Impassable suggests the road has become difficult to navigate.

Sometimes the barrier is not talent, resources, or opportunity. Sometimes the barrier is exhaustion, fear of change, poor communication, negativity, or resistance to new ideas. A project may be completely achievable, but the process surrounding it becomes so frustrating that people stop trying to move forward.

Sometimes progress does not stop because the vision failed. It

stops because people become tired of pushing against invisible walls.

That happens in businesses, organizations, families, and even communities. In growing regions like Vail and Southeast Arizona, progress requires collaboration, patience, and people willing to continue building even when the path becomes uncomfortable. Growth naturally brings questions, differing opinions, and growing pains. That does not mean progress is impossible. It simply means the road may require stronger communication, creative thinking, and a willingness to work together.

The strongest communities are not the ones without challenges. They are the ones that continue finding solutions despite the challenges. Every successful town, business, school, or organization has faced moments where the future felt uncertain or difficult to manage. The difference is that someone continued clearing the path forward.

Sometimes we become so focused on obstacles that we forget how much has already been accomplished. Roads were built. Businesses survived. Partnerships formed. Families planted roots. Dreams that once seemed unrealistic became part of everyday life. Progress rarely belongs to the people who never faced obstacles. It belongs to the people who kept moving despite them.

Some roads are not impossible. They are simply waiting for people willing to keep clearing the way forward.

Want to learn more, get involved or share an idea? Contact us, attend an event or join the Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce at info@greatervailchamber.com

By Dr. Denise Bowls
GVACC President/CEO



The Forgotten History of Father's Day

Father's Day did not become a national holiday until 1972. Mother's Day came first (it was officially recognized in 1914), so men in the early 1900s associated such a tribute with women and found the idea of a day for men too effeminate to their liking. To be fair, Mother's Day was couched in terms of femininity. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson called Mother's Day a way to recognize "that tender, gentle army—the mothers of America."

Men viewed the idea of Father's Day as similar to Mother's Day, which was popular with florists; for fathers, it didn't have the same sentimental appeal. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

Also, according to Lawrence R. Samuel, author of *American Fatherhood: A Cultural History*, men had a different role in the family during the first half of that century. It was patriarchal, so they felt that a special day to exalt fatherhood was a rather silly idea, when it was mothers who were underappreciated.

However, that sentiment changed over time for several reasons.

The first known Father's Day service occurred in Fairmont, West Virginia, on July 5, 1908, after hundreds of men died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.



Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated minister, proposed a service to honor all fathers, especially those who had died. However, the observance did not become an annual event, and it was not promoted; very few people outside of the local area knew about it. Meanwhile, across the entire country, another woman was inspired to honor fathers ...

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, was inspired by Anna Jarvis and the idea of Mother's Day. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was also a single parent who raised Sonora and her five brothers by himself, after his wife, Ellen, died giving birth to their youngest child in 1898. While attending a Mother's Day church service in 1909, Sonora, then 27 years old, came up with the idea.

Within a few months, Sonora had convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but the ministers chose the third Sunday in June so that they would have more time after Mother's Day (the second Sunday in May) to prepare their sermons. Thus, on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day events commenced: Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers, boys from the YMCA decorated their lapels with fresh-cut roses

"The Forgotten..." cont. on page 3

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“Vail Ain’t No Town”

The Hidden History of Civic Pride

Representation lies at the heart of the American story. Two hundred and fifty years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the struggle for representation remains one of the central threads connecting the turbulent, contested, and often contradictory history of the United States.

That same thread runs through the history of Vail.

Locals often say, “Vail ain’t no town.” In one sense, that is true. Vail was never incorporated and lacks many of the institutions people associate with a traditional municipality. Yet the phrase can obscure something important. For well over a century, Vail residents have organized, petitioned governing bodies, and built civic institutions to shape the future of their community.

In nearby Rincon Valley, Mexican American settlers—including Eusebio Tellez, Francisco Solano Leon, and Teodora Diaz Mills—were busy proving up on homestead claims. Valuing education, these families petitioned Pima County in 1889 to establish the Rincon School District No. 8. They served as school trustees, provided meeting spaces, and hosted teachers in their own homes.

The Vail School District was first organized in 1903. Otto Schley, proprietor of the Old Vail Post Office, was one of those who stepped up to serve on the school board. These pioneer families pooled resources to establish



Vail School c1910

foundational services long before modern conveniences arrived. As Jacqueline Davis recalled of her time living in Vail in the 1940s, “Oh Vail. There ain’t no gas, water, or lights.”



Vail School c1900-1920s

As we look toward America’s 250th anniversary, their story proves that we can choose representation, we can choose to participate, and we can strive to create a more perfect union. Vail exists because everyday people joined together to advocate for their neighbors, build vital institutions, and invest in a future larger than themselves. We are not passive observers of history, we are its stewards.

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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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,

We need more than just food, water and air to survive in this world. We need meaningful connection with others.

The need for meaningful connection begins at birth. Researchers have found that babies in orphanages who received sufficient milk but were not held, grew weak and sometimes died. Their condition became known as Failure to Thrive. Bridget Coila points out, "Touch is essential for human survival; babies who are deprived of touch can fail to thrive, lose weight and even die. Babies...who do not get touched also have lower levels of growth hormone, so a lack of touch can actually stunt a child's growth. The immune systems of children who are deprived of touch may also be weaker than those who receive plenty of physical affection."

This need for meaningful connection with others lasts throughout the span of our lives. In her research on aging, Mary Pipher concluded that two habits help to keep people young into old age: having relationships and being useful. "It helps to be connected to a lot of people of all ages, including children," she says. "And I think

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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.

the need to be useful stops being important about when the need to breathe stops."

Pearl Buck observed, "The person who tries to live alone will not succeed as a human being. His heart withers if it does not answer another heart. His mind shrinks away if he hears only the echoes of his own thoughts and finds no other inspiration."

We need one another!

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

It is with great pleasure that P.E.O. Chapter FC announces the first-ever winner of the Chapter FC Philanthropic Educational Opportunity (P.E.O.) Local Scholarship, awarded to Kaley Smith from Cienega High School.

PEO is a philanthropic organization for women built on friendship, purpose and a shared belief in the power of education. P.E.O. is one of the oldest women's organizations in North America, with nearly 5,400 chapters and 187,000 members across the United States and Canada. Our motto is: Where Women, Educate, Motivate and Celebrate Women.

This local scholarship was created just for twelfth-grade girls in the Vail School District. Our sincere thanks to the Vail School District Foundation for their guidance through the scholarship process this first year. In addition, if you know of any woman pursuing her education whether it be from a two- or four-year degree, to a doctoral degree, or returning to school after a break in education, P.E.O. invites you to take a closer look at our scholarship and grant opportunities at PEOinternational.org.

To learn more about our local P.E.O. Chapter FC, contact Cathy Kainer, president, for information (cskainer70@gmail.com). We'll be sponsoring fundraising opportunities throughout the year, so watch for information of how to become involved and support us in our mission to help women pursue their educational goals. Again, congratulations Kaley Smith.

Cathy Kainer

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

On the Move

Celebrating Local Success

Jacob Michael Lambert Junior,
Health Systems, Hastings College
140th Graduating Class Honoree



"The Forgotten..." cont. from page 3
(red for living fathers, white for the deceased), and the city's ministers devoted their homilies to fatherhood.

Becoming a National Holiday
The widely publicized events in Spokane struck a chord that reached all the way to Washington, D.C., and Sonora's celebration put the idea on the path to becoming a national holiday. However, the holiday did not catch on right away, perhaps due to the perceived parallels with Mother's Day.

The first bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, but in spite of encouragement from President Woodrow Wilson, it did not pass. Eight years later, President Calvin Coolidge signed a resolution in favor of Father's Day "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed an executive order that the holiday be celebrated on the third Sunday in June. Under President Richard Nixon, in 1972, Congress passed an act officially making Father's Day a national holiday. (Six years later, Sonora died at age 96.)

Fathers are now seen as significant influences on children; we know from many studies what happens when a father figure is lacking. In a sense, today, Father's Day, helps to demonstrate the importance and value of fatherhood, and the gifts beyond material goods that a father bestows on his children and family. See 5 important ways fathers impact child development.

Read the full article online at
<https://www.almanac.com/forgotten-history-fathers-day>

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This is Thy Hour, O Soul

This month's article is more personal than most of the others, and it is only distantly related to the night sky. Over the last few months, particularly around the time of the March 2026 eclipse of the Moon, I began to encounter dizzy spells that grew in intensity. Near the end of April, I suffered through a terrible day during which I fainted 15 times, the last of which resulted in broken ribs. I do not know how my iPhone found its way to my side that night. When I was discharged from a second hospital three days later, I had been diagnosed with a severe hypoxemia. When I arrived my blood oxygen level was down to a near-fatal level of 5 but as I write these words it is up to 9.5; still too low but better. I also have three ulcers. I was forced to cancel a planned visit to Kalamazoo, Michigan, but I did successfully present my lecture over zoom.

Thanks to good family support and the help of my friends David and Pam Rossetter and Tim Hunter, I am at home and improving. I have restarted my observing. I am able to resume my nightly field checks of T Coronae Borealis, and even a little comet hunting. I do appreciate your words and prayers.

I feel as though I am emerging from a very long tunnel. The experience has been excruciating but wondrous also. Except of course, for last night. The setting Sun brought a beautiful clear sky. Jupiter was hanging in the upper west. Venus was not too far away from giant Jupiter. All the stars were out. As I got my eyes adapted to the darkness, the friendship



In the summer of 1966, Joseph Howard took this photograph of me standing in front of our cabin at the Adirondack Science Camp.

of the stars began to take hold. Sirius, shining clearly at magnitude minus 1.5, beckoned me to try to spot its companion, which I have observed before. As constellation after constellation, asterism after asterism, made their grand entrances, each one had a unique story to tell. Some stories are established legends, and others could be as fresh as a child's imagination and fresh approach to what that part of the sky can teach.

When I was a teenager, my particular love was comets. It still is. They are so magical, so precious, so much fun, and so unique. I have observed more than 240 comets, of which 23 are comets I have discovered or co-discovered. From my own point of view they are also friendly. Each one has a distinct, well-established personality. I love them all, but more than that I have a special place in my heart for each one of the 23 comets I have found, either on my own or with Carolyn and Gene Shoemaker. And just last night, David Rossetter and I resumed our monthly observing at our society's Chiricahua Astronomy complex. The night was sparkling and I will never forget it.

Right now, I have to concentrate

on my recovery, on getting better.

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.



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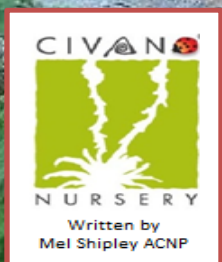
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Gardening & Happiness

There's no denying that getting outside in nature can give you a positive feeling. They say after a stressful day, even a five minute wander around the garden pulling a few weeds and maybe picking some fruit or herbs can have a meditative effect. I have to say that my favorite time to be outside is early morning just before the day begins, there is just sometime magical about the early morning light...ok and maybe moonlight night too!



What did one
cactus say to the
other cactus?

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Summer Annuals: Zinnias, vinca, marigolds, and celosia will handle the heat pretty well; just make sure to give them sufficient water. More variety in store.

Succulent: Decorate the patio with some beautiful succulents. Remember to be careful not to over water.

Shade Annuals: Enjoy begonias, caladiums, dahlias, inpatients...

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Remembering the Bicentennial

By Chuck Colbath

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our great country, I am reminded of the celebration, fifty years ago, marking an amazing two hundred years of the best experiment on earth. It was a different time, and as a child I was surprised at all the, shall we say "creative" marketing that came out of the woodwork!

Most everyone in our area had a front license plate with the name of the town they lived in, and its year of incorporation. Our local pride was on full display. One extreme novelty was bicentennial toilet paper! That one made me scratch my head, but obviously someone thought it was that much of a big deal. During this year's celebration, it would be nice to see that level of enthusiasm and patriotism. And perhaps we will.



This would be a good time for all of us to be more open-minded regarding the opinions of others. Listening to more than one narrative may not be easy, but it is something we can all still do, thanks to being in a country with free speech with and a free press. There are many on planet Earth who only see one side, as everything is all decided for them. They would love to have what we have, and the only way to keep this freedom is to continue to listen to others, like it or not, but try to understand where they are com-

ing from. Doing so gets us past personal opinions and onto things we all have in common.

Our families, communities, and fellow citizens are who we should care about, as we should value their opinions, understanding that each of us is entitled to their own viewpoint. After all, different ideas make for a better society. If we were all the same it would be a pretty boring country! So instead of being at odds with each other, let us embrace our differences. And more than anything, let us celebrate this important time in history. Let bygones be bygones. Life is too short not to share the love we all have for our country.

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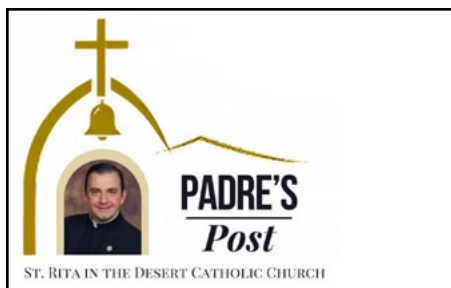
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May brought many joyful moments to our community, from graduations and family celebrations to cherished events in parish life. At St. Rita in the Desert, we were especially grateful to celebrate the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother and the feast of our patroness, St. Rita of Cascia. As June begins, it also offers us an opportunity to reflect on a Catholic tradition that speaks powerfully to people of every background: the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In the Catholic Church, June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For Catholics, the Sacred Heart is a reminder of

Christ's faithful love, mercy, and compassion for the world. The devotion has deep roots in Christian history and became especially well known through St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the seventeenth century, whose witness helped many people see in the Sacred Heart of Jesus a sign of God's personal love for every human being.

Even for those who are less familiar with Catholic traditions, the message of the Sacred Heart is easy to understand: no one is beyond the reach of God's love. This month, families might set aside a few quiet moments for prayer, reflect on mercy and forgiveness, or perform simple acts of kindness for neighbors, friends, and those in need. In Catholic homes, some also honor this devotion by placing an image of the Sacred Heart in a prominent place as a daily reminder that love, compassion, and faith begin in the home.

"Padre's Post"
continued on page 22



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PIMA COUNTY

Get Ready, Christmas is in July!

Get ready to escape the Arizona summer heat and step into a festive winter wonderland as the Vail Depot Thrift Store officially launches its "Christmas in July" season during the "Second Saturday Between the Tracks" Vendor Fair on Saturday, July 11, beginning at 9 a.m. Mark your calendar for this summer fun!

While temperatures outside may climb well above 100 degrees, visitors inside the Vail Depot will be greeted by the sights and spirit of the holiday season. The store will feature beautifully decorated displays filled with festive trees, wreaths, nutcrackers, Santa



figurines, elegant ornaments, and unique seasonal gifts designed to inspire shoppers long before December arrives.

The Christmas in July celebration offers the community an opportunity to get a head start on holi-

day shopping, gather decorating ideas, and discover one-of-a-kind treasures. The event is about more than early shopping, it is also a chance to bring joy to the community while helping families avoid the stress and expense of last-minute holiday preparations later in the year.

Shopping directly supports the vital work of the Vail Food Bank. Every purchase helps fund programs that provide food, meals for children, and essential support to local families facing food insecurity. Donating your gently used items is another powerful way to give back, your contributions become the inventory that fuels our mission.

In addition to the in-store festivities, the Vail Depot is preparing to launch an online store that will allow customers to continue shopping and supporting the Vail Food Bank beyond regular business hours. Follow us on Facebook and

Instagram to catch our "going live" announcement! When it's time, you will find the store at www.resourcesvail.org/thriftstore. Community members can also support the mission by volunteering at the Vail Depot, where volunteers are regularly needed to help process and price donations. Interested volunteers can learn more and sign up at www.resourcesvail.org.

With Christmas spirit arriving early this year, the Vail Depot invites the community to celebrate the season in the middle of summer and discover why it is never too early to shop for holiday treasures.

Valentina Babuin
Store Manager



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VUSD SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



Senior Spotlight: Olivia Hill

Since joining Empire as a sophomore, Olivia has immersed herself in the school's theatre program, becoming an active member of the Technical Theatre CTE pathway and Empire Theatre troupe. From helping run productions to competing in regional and state technical theatre competitions, she found both a passion and a community through the arts.

Olivia also challenged herself academically through the Corvus Advanced Placement program while participating in NHS, volunteering more than 30 hours each semester, and serving as a FAFSA Peer Mentor to help other students navigate the college process.

This fall, Olivia will attend Northern Arizona University after earning the prestigious Lumberjack Scholarship. She plans to double major in English and Interior Design, combining her love for creative writing with her interest in designing balanced and meaningful spaces.

"The Vail School District has helped prepare me for college with its rigorous curriculum and opportunities to succeed academically," Olivia said.

Congratulations, Olivia. Your creativity and hard work will continue to inspire wherever your future takes you.



Senior Spotlight: Arthur Brock

Cienega High School senior Arthur Brock is headed to the prestigious United States Naval Academy this summer after earning a highly competitive appointment to the academy.

Arthur, who attended Desert Willow Elementary and Old Vail Middle School, has spent years preparing for this opportunity through academics, athletics, and leadership. He graduates with a 4.0 GPA, dual enrollment credits, and a goal of one day becoming a Navy SEAL.

"The district gives you the opportunity to challenge yourself," Brock said.

This June, Arthur will report to Annapolis to begin Plebe Summer and start his journey toward serving as a Navy officer.

Congratulations, Arthur. Your Vail family is proud of you and your commitment to service!



Senior Spotlight: Lindsey Hurley

For Lindsey Hurley, graduating as valedictorian from Andrada High School is more than just an academic accomplishment. It's the result of years of curiosity, determination, and taking every opportunity to explore her passions.

A lifelong Vail student, Lindsey attended Esmond Station K-8 School before choosing Andrada for its unique automotive program. While many students might hesitate to jump into a traditionally male-dominated field, Lindsey saw it as an opportunity to challenge herself and discover something new.

At Andrada, Lindsey completed both the Automotive and Engineering pathways, earning industry certifications while balancing a rigorous academic schedule. Through Vail's CTE and SEP programs, she gained real-world experience shadowing professionals at a race shop, where she worked alongside engineers and mechanics working on custom cars.

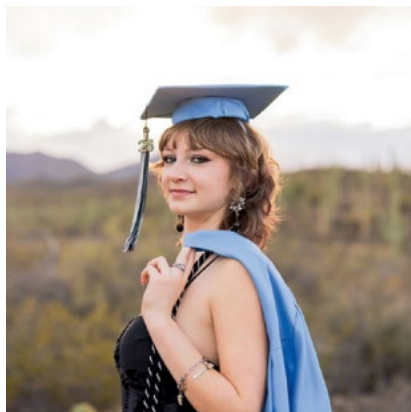
Those experiences helped shape her future goals. This fall, Lindsey will attend Purdue University to study Motorsports Engineering, with dreams of one day working in Formula One racing.

Lindsey credits the Vail School District for helping her discover the career path she's passionate about.

"If I hadn't been able to try both engineering and auto, I would have had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do," she said. "The teachers here really encouraged us to get out there and learn."

Congratulations, Lindsey. Your Vail family can't wait to see where the road takes you next.

VUSD SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



Senior Spotlight: Ariana Murton

For Mica Mountain High School senior Ariana Murton, curiosity about the universe has been guiding her future since kindergarten.

Ariana attended Senita Valley Elementary School, Vail Academy and High School, and Mica Mountain High School.

Throughout high school, Ariana served as president of Art Club, participated in Student Government for four years, and represented Mica Mountain as the school mascot, Skye. Whether cheering on her classmates at sporting events or helping lead campus initiatives, Ariana embraced every opportunity to connect with her school community.

This fall, Ariana will attend The Ohio State University to study Astronomy and Astrophysics after earning a \$13,500 annual scholarship and selection into the university's Arts Scholar program.

Her passion for astronomy began at a young age and continued to grow through hands-on learning experiences in VUSD, including a SARSEF science fair project in fifth grade focused on removing space junk from Earth's atmosphere.

"I think the Vail School District has done a great job preparing me for the future," Ariana said. "I feel very confident in public speaking and working with adults and peers around me."

Congratulations, Ariana. Your future is truly bright!



Senior Spotlight: Jahanna Atkinson.

For Mica Mountain High School senior Jahanna Atkinson, high school has been a journey of growth, discovery, and stepping outside her comfort zone.

After moving to Arizona at the start of high school, Jahanna quickly found a home in the Vail School District community. A violinist in Mica Mountain's orchestra since freshman year, Jahanna balanced academics with creativity and leadership opportunities. But during her senior year, she decided to take on an even bigger challenge by joining the Vail Early College program.

Through Vail Early College, Jahanna spent her senior year taking college classes at Pima Community College while simultaneously completing her high school graduation requirements. The experience pushed her to develop new study habits, improve her time management skills, and transition from a high school mindset into a college-level environment.

By graduation, Jahanna will have completed her first full year of college credits, giving her a major head start on her future. This fall, she will attend Tuskegee University on a full-ride scholarship to study Mechanical Engineering.

Jahanna says the opportunities offered through the Vail School District helped her grow both academically and personally. "Coming here let me spread my wings and take advantage of a bunch of opportunities," she said.

Congratulations, Jahanna. Your future is just getting started, and your Vail family is cheering you on every step of the way!



Senior Spotlight: Jordan Hess

After 12 years in the Vail School District, this graduating senior is leaving behind a legacy of leadership, service, and academic excellence.

From attending Sycamore Elementary School, Copper Ridge Elementary School, Corona Foothills Middle School, Vail Academy and High School, Cienega High School, and Vail Early College, she embraced every opportunity VUSD had to offer.

A four-year varsity swimmer at Cienega, she qualified for the state championships all four years, served as team captain her senior year, and earned multiple honors including Swimmer of the Year and Most Valuable Swimmer. Beyond athletics, she founded the Helping Hands Club, raising more than \$3,000 to support homelessness outreach efforts in the community, while also leading Blue Star Students and participating in NJROTC and National Honor Society.

Throughout her journey, she credits the teachers, counselors, coaches, and staff members across VUSD for shaping her future and encouraging her passions in science, leadership, service, and academics.

This fall, she will attend University of California, Santa Barbara on an Army ROTC Scholarship while studying Aquatic Biology and Business/Accounting with a minor in Spanish. She will also graduate high school with an Associate of Science degree through the Vail Early College program.

"Vail School District is a great place to explore different experiences and career fields before choosing to launch into life after high school," she says. "The instructors, administrators, and staff in the Vail School District are professionals who care about students and our success. As I graduate high school, I feel prepared for what comes next in life."

Congratulations on an incredible journey and all the success ahead!

"Headline Story" cont. from pg 1



Andrada HS
Valedictorian
Lindsey Hurley

"The most important thing I have learned this year is that

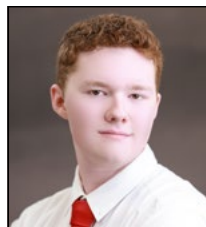
in order to be successful in just about anything you have to be constantly willing to ask questions and learn more about it."



Andrada HS
Salutatorian.
John Fahrenbruch

"Throughout my life whilst in high school, I have

encountered many challenges. Through this I have learned that things often happen for a reason and the value of learning through mistakes. Even if something is a negative experience, it often serves to make room for something positive."



Cienega HS
Valedictorian
Sebastian Kleber

"The most significant non-academic

lesson I learned during senior year is the importance of time management and the importance of avoiding procrastination as it helps reduce stress and allows for better handling of assignments and responsibilities."



Cienega HS
Salutatorian
Corin Meador

"The most significant lesson I learned in high school

was to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Whether that be joining a club or a sport or taking a difficult class, everything you do has the potential to shape who you are in the future."



Empire HS
Valedictorian
Anna Lamb

What is the most significant non-academic lesson you learned

during your senior year? "I have learned to live in the moment, no matter how small."

...



Empire HS
Salutatorian
Sara Thomas

"I learned that change is inevitable, but it should not be

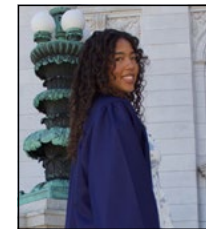
something to avoid but something to embrace. Change is the reason we grow and why we are here now. For that reason, I've come to accept change no matter if it is positive or negative."



Mica Mountain
HS Salutatorian
Caroline Trickey

"Senior year, I learned that relationships are the main thing

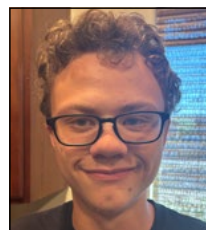
that matters. Being able to spend time and focus on having fun with my friends and family means so much to me, especially now, knowing that this stage in life is almost over."



Vail Acad. & HS
Valedictorian
Xiamara Sende

"My senior year taught me that there is no single "correct" path in

life. Everyone grows at a different pace, with different goals and challenges. Success is not about following the same timeline as everyone else, but about creating a future that is truly meaningful to you!"



Mica Mountain
HS Valedictorian
Caleb Hellmann

"The most important lesson I learned while I was in high

school was that I can't go it alone. I'm only where I am today because of support from my family, my swim team, my classmates, my coaches, and my teachers. The people around you are everything."



Vail Acad. & HS
Salutatorian
Fatima-Zohra Charette

"I learned during senior year is the importance

of time management and the importance of avoiding procrastination as it helps reduce stress and allows for better handling of assignments and responsibilities."



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DLWGA

Del Lago Women's Golf Association Invites Women Golfers

The Del Lago Women's Golf Association (DLWGA) concluded their annual Club Championship on April 27, with the beautiful weather being unusually cooperative for a Monday.

The two-day competition delivered a new low gross winner, Gail Enoch, shooting a 185 for the two rounds. The net winner, Julie Katz, finished with a 144.

Sixteen members began the event April 20, with nine finishing the second round.

All players gathered after their round in the Hacienda del Lago Bar and Grill to celebrate the winners and enjoy the camaraderie with delicious food.

The DLWGA, founded in 2014, is an Arizona Golf Association (AGA) sanctioned league that meets every Monday morning throughout the year, with the goal of bringing together a community of women at all skill levels who enjoy the game of golf.

The league season begins in October and ends in May. Join us this summer for casual social play beginning May 25 and concluding in October before the start of regular league play.

If you are interested or want more information, scan the QR code or email us at



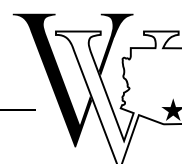
Get Your Golf On!



(left) Gail Enoch and (right) Julie Katz

dellagowga@gmail.com.

By Stuart Katz



Andrew Koch's Toy Drive

Tucson Children's Hospital is low on toys and gifts for the children. I am organizing a toy drive beginning April 12 through May 20 and asking for your help. Due to health concerns, the hospital only accepts new toys. Please consider scanning the QR code to get to the Amazon Toy Drive list and purchase any of the toys on the list. I will receive all of the donations, pack them up, and deliver them to the hospital.

Thank you for your help!



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Thank You America!

As America approaches its 250th anniversary on July 4th, this historic milestone carries special meaning for the approximately 7.5 million Jews who call the United States home. Beyond the celebrations of flags and fireworks, many see this anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on the unique role America has played in Jewish life.

For generations of Jews, America represented something rare in history: safety. Families who survived the Holocaust, escaped pogroms, or fled persecution found refuge on its shores and were given the opportunity not merely to survive, but to build new lives.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, who himself escaped Nazi persecution and arrived in America in 1941, famously referred to the United States as "Malchut Shel Chesed" a "Kingdom of Kindness." America's commitment to liberty, justice, and individual rights created a society where Jewish life could openly flourish.

Religious freedom became one of America's greatest gifts. Jews were able to practice their faith publicly and proudly, establishing synagogues, schools, and communities without fear. Material opportunity also allowed Jewish life to expand in unprecedented ways, making kosher food, Torah learning, Jewish publishing, and charitable giving widely accessible.

America's founding principles, rooted in belief in G-d and moral responsibility, also resonated deeply with Jewish values. The words "In G-d We Trust" reflect



ideals that have long been part of the nation's identity.

America has also played a significant role on the world stage, promoting stability, humanitarian aid, and serving as Israel's strongest ally through diplomatic and financial support.

The Rebbe often emphasized another uniquely American quality: broad-mindedness and optimism. That spirit inspired Jewish growth and outreach on a scale previously unimaginable.

Today, America is home to one of the largest Jewish populations in the world and has become a central hub of Jewish life and learning. As the nation marks 250 years of independence, many American Jews celebrate not only the country's history, but also the opportunities and blessings it made possible.

Rabbi 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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3 Tips to Control Scorpions This Summer

Summer in Vail means longer days, warmer nights, and unfortunately, increased scorpion activity. Homeowners across Vail often start seeing scorpions around patios, garages, block walls, and even inside their homes once temperatures rise. While scorpions play an important role in the desert ecosystem, they're not something most families want sharing their living space.

If you're looking for effective ways to reduce scorpions around your property this summer, these three tips can make a big difference.

Tip #1: Eliminate Scorpion Hiding Places Around Your Yard

Scorpions spend most of the day hiding in cool, dark areas to escape the Arizona heat. Reducing these hiding spots can dramatically lower scorpion activity around your home. Common hiding plac-

es include rock and wood piles, yard debris, dense vegetation, unsealed block walls, and storage boxes in garages. Keep these areas well maintained and properly sealed.

Tip #2: Reduce Other Pest Activity Around Your Home

Scorpions are predators. If your property has plenty of insects, it becomes an ideal feeding ground. Scorpions enjoy feeding on crickets, cockroaches, spiders, beetles, and ants. By reducing these pests, you naturally make your home less attractive to scorpions.

Tip #3: Implement a Regular Pest Maintenance Program

A regular pest control program will help control scorpion activity around your home on several levels. A licensed pest professional can inspect and help identify areas around your home that make good hiding spots or entry points for scorpions. In addition, every other month treatments will significant-

ly reduce other pest populations around your home. These treatments will also serve as a barrier that targets and prevents scorpions from entering your house.

For more information on scorpions and how you can protect your home this summer, visit www.Bill-HomeService.com or call (520) 346-4564.

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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 +.

Every Sunday, 11 a.m.

Desert Skies United Methodist Church worship service. Great Room 13715 E. Langtry Ln. ASA building. Everyone is welcome.

During June, July and August the Art Gallery at the Arizona Senior Academy will exhibit student artwork from ASA Art Classes. A reception will be held Tuesday, June 2, at 5 p.m. and the public is invited. Located in the ASA Building lobby, the gallery is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and during ASA events.

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.

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.

Mon, June 8, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Tom Litwicki, Chief thevailvoice.com

Executive Officer, Old Pueblo Community Services, "Ending Homelessness." This speaker will provide evidence from programs in the U. S. and Canada that shows the Housing First model is more effective than traditional approaches in reducing chronic and unsheltered homelessness.

Fri, June 12, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Violinist/vocalist Heather Hardy brings "A Taste of Jazz" to the ASA, with guitarist Ed Delucia, drummer Josh Caruthers, and NYC bassist Mike Merritt.

Mon, June 15, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Phoebe Charpentier, Communications Specialist, 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, June 19, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Grams & Krieger, Arizona Blues Hall of Fame members, guitarist/slide guitarist Danny Krieger, bassist Steve Grams, and drummer Ralph Gilmore, play "roots music" and their special brand of blues.

Sun, June 21

Father's Day 2026

Mon, June 22, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Sudrit Ranjan, Ph.D., Professor, U of A Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, "Towards Measuring the Atmosphere of Temperate Terrestrial Exoplanet TRAPPIST-1e." Prof. Ranjan will report on the status of the NASA research regarding the atmosphere around this potentially habitable planet.

Tue-Thu, Jun. 23-25, 6:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Crosspoint Lutheran Church (2285 E. Sahuarita Rd.) will host Vacation Bible School, Ages 4 years old to 5th grade. Register at www.crosspointlutheranchurch.org. Questions? Email admin@crosspointlutheranchurch.org.

Fri, June 26, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The husband-wife team of harpist Christine Vivona and trombonist/pianist Rob Boone present "Travel the US with Rob and Christine-a musical journey" - mixing classical, jazz and pop music.

Mon, June 29, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Devon Stackonis, a Fulbright scholar pursuing a doctorate at Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Fine Arts, Wrocław, Poland, "Scraping the Surface: Intaglio Printmaking in Response to Extractive Industry." She will describe environmental and activist movements addressing the effects of extraction and climate change in Poland.

Fri, July 3, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Tucson Duo Project plays music by living composers plus reimagined classics, performed by Mindi Acosta (flute, piccolo) and Cassandra Bendickson (bassoon, contrabassoon), with Meily Mendez (piano).

Fri, July 10, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: Vocalist Sheryl Ann McKinley and Pianist Sly Slipetsky play and sing a magical array of jazz, American Songbook & more!

Sun, July 19, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TCC Coin & Stamp Show with 42 tables of dealers. Admission free. Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 East Bellevue St., Tucson, Arizona 85712. More info: 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.

Have an Event?

Send your event to events@thevailvoice.com and be sure to include the DD, Month, Time a.m. or p.m. plus the Title of the Event and the Location. Include a contact or web address for additional information on your event. Events must be received before the 20th of each month prior to publication.

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

"Padre's Post"

continued from page 12

This year, that tradition will also be reflected on a national level. On June 11, 2026, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as part of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For Catholics, such a consecration is not a political statement, but a prayerful act that entrusts our nation to Christ's love and calls us to live with greater truth, justice, and charity.

In a time when public life can feel divided and hurried, the Sacred Heart offers a different way forward. It invites us to practice forgiveness, speak with honesty, treat one another with dignity, and seek the good of others even when that requires patience or sacrifice. My hope is that this June tradition, whether familiar or new to you, will encourage all of us in the Vail community to build homes, neighborhoods, and friendships marked by compassion, courage, and peace.

By Reverend Alonzo M. García



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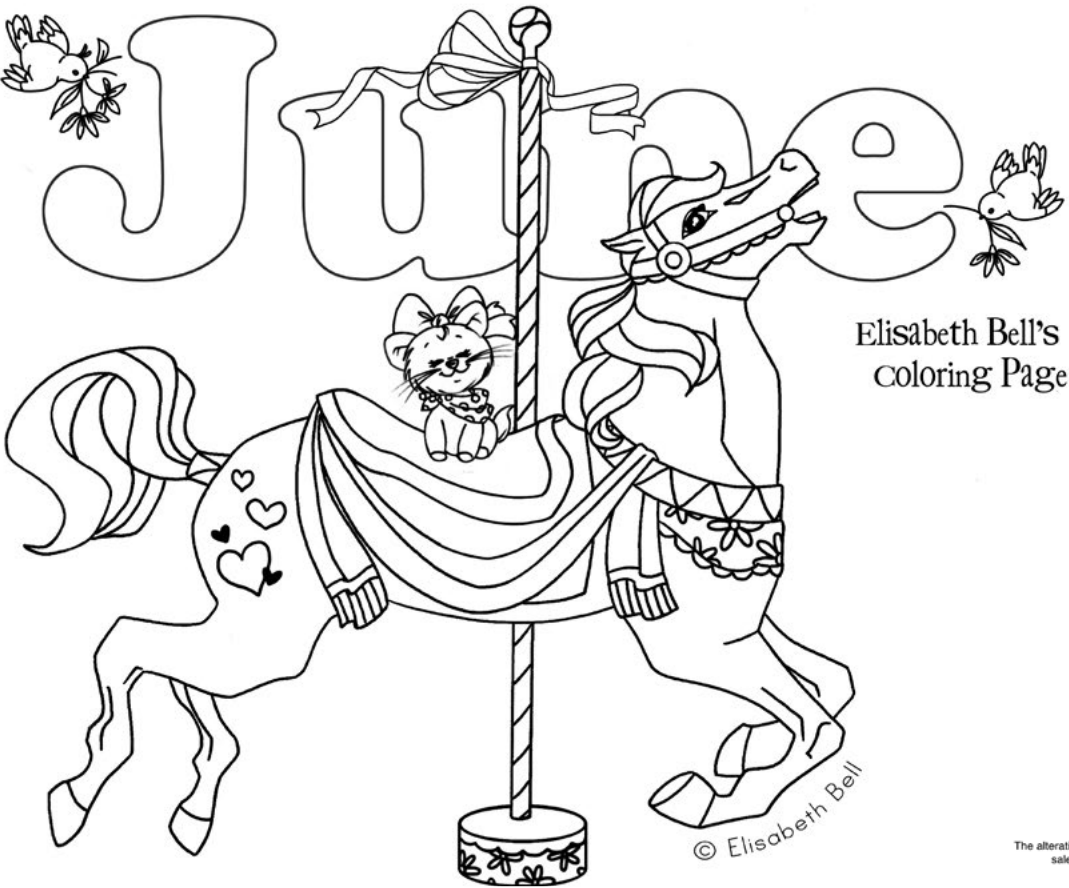


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Game Time! DIRECTIONS: Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Easy Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

4	8	6	5	2	5	9	1	1
2	5	9	8	1	4	5	6	
1	1	5	9	6	4	2	8	5
9	6	5	2	4	1	8	1	5
5	2	4	1	5	8	6	9	1
8	1	1	6	5	9	4	4	2
1	9	2	4	1	6	5	5	8
5	4	1	5	8	2	1	6	9
6	5	8	1	9	5	1	2	4

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

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

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



Summer Growth Starts with Connection

Summer often brings a change of pace for teens, couples, and families — but it can also be a valuable opportunity to reconnect, reset routines, and focus on emotional well-being together. While vacations, camps, and family outings can create meaningful memories, the summer season can also present challenges such as increased stress, transitions, relationship tension, social anxiety, or difficulty maintaining structure and balance.

Simple intentional habits, such as spending quality time outdoors, reducing screen time, encouraging open-hearted conversations, and creating healthy routines, can positively impact emotional regulation and family relationships. For teens especially, summer can become an important season for building confidence, independence, communication skills, and emotional resilience.

This summer, consider making emotional wellness and healthy connection part of your family's goals — because growth happens best when people feel heard.

By A. Whitney Shea,
MA, LPC TLMHC

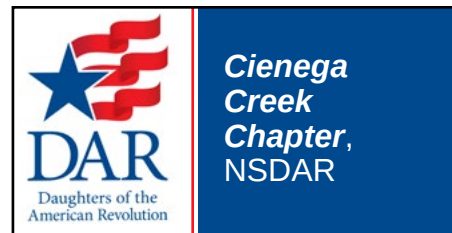
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Celebrating Young Patriots

The end of the school year brought success and recognition for several students at Cienega High School.

Gabriella Polanco (top left) received this year's JROTC Bronze Award during an awards ceremony. She was awarded for demonstrating academic excellence, dependability, good character and achievement to military and leadership understanding. The chapter sponsored the award event for the fourth consecutive year.

Students were honored at the chapter's April meeting for their efforts and achievements in American history and the Constitution. This year's Patriot Essay first-place winner was Ricky Street (top right), who wrote about Paul Revere, describing his midnight ride, other patriots he worked with, and his career. Street received a certificate, Patriot Medal, \$50 check, and a meal at Texas Roadhouse.

Three Constitution Poster Contest winners were also recognized during the April chapter meeting. Jocelyn Lourenco (bottom left) earned first place and received \$50 and a certificate. Lydia Palmer (bottom right) placed second and received \$25 and a certificate, while Brooke Byars took third place and received \$15 certificate. They also received meal certificates to Texas Roadhouse.

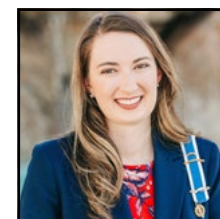
Next year's contests will begin in September 2026. Students in grades 5–8 are eligible to participate in the American History Essay Contest (Topic TBD), while



high school students may enter the Patriot Essay Contest writing about a patriot of their choice: anyone who taught, gave aid or supported independence. The Constitution Poster Contest is open to participants of all ages. Create a poster that represents the constitution and advertises Constitution Week. For more information, contact Regent Kelly Hansen.

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.

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



Vail School District Foundation

The Vail School District Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to our newest donors, Carondelet Health Network and Pueblo Mechanical, for their generous support and commitment to education. Partnerships like these help us continue creating meaningful opportunities for our students, teachers, and schools throughout the Vail community. We are deeply appreciative of their investment in the future of our students and look forward to the positive impact we can make together.

The Foundation relies on our generous donors to help us fulfill our mission to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and enhance opportunities. We are grateful to the donors that have enabled us to give back over \$440,000 in classroom grants and student scholarships since 2019. We invite new donors and community partners to join us in supporting education and investing in opportunities that help every student succeed. Visit us at vsdfoundation.org or email us at vailsdfoundation@gmail.com.





Services to Residents and Business

Staci Pinion, Executive Director of Pima County Bar Association and Pima County Bar Association Foundation presented information residents may use when legal services are required. The Pima County Bar Association and the Pima County Bar Association Foundation are two organizations in one with the mission of serving the public and legal profession. Members of the bar association volunteer to read to students in elementary schools, raise money for food banks, and provide legal services.

Consultations are available to small businesses and residents through the referral program. Legal forms are available at www.pimacountybar.org. The Quilt Modest Means Program works with residents with family law issues. The Bar association also works with Southern Arizona Legal Aid and Step up to Justice to assist residents. The philanthropic arm of the bar association provides free/low cost legal services, educational seminars and resources. Call 520-623-4625 for more information.

Dr. Denise Bowls, president and CEO of the Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce discussed the Chamber's re-branding through active listening to divergent views, transparency, building relationships, understanding, and collaborative programs to build bridges. This approach provides planned/balanced growth and quality of life for residents, thus creating healthy businesses and healthy residents by trusting the process. When the



(left) Staci Pinion and (right) Dr. Denise Bowls

community is healthy, partnerships are developed for long term success through employment, civic engagement, quality of life, support of schools and public services.

Some of the programs the Chamber offers are mentoring, networking events, leadership training, and numerous opportunities to connect. Call 520-261-8245 for more information.

By Carol A. Wagner Williams
info@seacpimacounty.org

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If Your House Had a Wish List, What Would Be on It?

Some houses whisper. Maybe it's the adobe, but Southern Arizona houses tend to be more direct.

The patio wants more shade before another triple-digit summer. The AC would like attention before July. The guest room is campaigning to become an office, hobby space or actual guest room again. And that kitchen? It has been patiently waiting for its moment since the granite-countertop era.

Homeownership comes with pride, but it also comes with a running list. Some projects are exciting and practical. Some start as "we'll get to that eventually" and suddenly become "we should probably handle that soon."

A HELOC may also help with larger expenses outside the home, such as education costs, emergency expenses or consolidating higher-interest debt. Like any financial decision, the key is to borrow thoughtfully. Before tapping into your home equity, ask yourself: What problem am I trying to solve? How much do I actually need? Does the payment fit comfortably in my budget?

Timing matters, too. In Southern Arizona, shade upgrades, cooling improvements, window replacements, landscaping and outdoor living spaces can make a big difference before the hottest months settle in. Planning ahead can help you avoid rushed decisions later.

For homeowners who have built equity, a Home Equity Line of Credit, often called a HELOC, may help turn a few of those long-postponed ideas into a more realistic plan.

A HELOC lets qualified homeowners borrow against the equity in their home. Unlike a traditional loan, where you receive one lump sum, a HELOC gives you access to a revolving line of credit that you can draw from as needed during the draw period. That can make it useful for projects or expenses that happen in phases.

Is your backyard ready for a covered patio, outdoor kitchen or a little more monsoon-season magic? Maybe your roof, windows or HVAC system are due for an upgrade. Maybe you're thinking about a bathroom refresh, new flooring, energy-efficient improvements or repairs that would make daily life more comfortable.

For Vail-area homeowners, Hughes Federal Credit Union offers HELOC options that can help make those home wish-list items more manageable. And for a limited time, Hughes is offering a special promotion: apply between April 1 and December 31, 2026, and fees may be waived up to \$975.

Your home has already been working hard for you. With the right plan, your home equity could help you take care of what's next, from practical fixes to dream projects that make life at home feel even better.

To learn more, visit hughesfcu.org/HELOC.



Word Search

Solved

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

AFRICA

ALWAYS

AMERICA

BEAT IT

BROKEN WINGS

CALL ME

CONTROL

PURPLE RAIN

ROCK ON

SAILING

SARA

SATISFIED

SHOUT

SONGBIRD

SUKIYAKI

SUSSUDIO

THE FLAME

THE LOOK

THE ROSE

TIME

TOO SHY

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TRULY

TWO HEARTS

VACATION

VOICES CARRY

WE BELONG

WHIP IT

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SAILING

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