



July Events!
7/4- Independence Day
250 Years of America

See Events on pg. 21!

Word Search
on Page
24
Answer Key: Pg. 27



Gail Griffin
Arizona House of Representatives

We have a Budget.

The House and Senate reached an agreement with the Governor. The budget includes full tax conformity, including:

- \$1.4 billion in tax relief
- No tax on tips
- No tax on overtime
- 25% increase child tax credits
- 2.5% cuts across all agencies
- 3-year pause on data center sales tax exemption.

Revenue Is Up

April 2026 General Fund revenue was 9.1% higher than the prior year and generated \$115M more than forecasted in January.

Ballot Measures

Arizona House and Senate Republicans are sending several conservative measures to the ballot this year. These include:

- HCR 2001 – Voter IDs and same-day-results.
- HCR 2003 – Protecting girls in girls' sports.
- HCR 2044 – Government cannot give preferential treatment based on race or ethnicity.
- SCR 1004 – Requiring voter approval for photo radar

Governor Hobbs: Solar First; Housing Last

When Governor Hobbs says, "All of the above," she means "Solar first." In 2023, Governor Hobbs issued an illegal housing moratorium that made land across

the Phoenix area unavailable for new housing development. The moratorium also eliminated competition for solar developers, who want cheap land near existing residential communities. Arizona is currently short 55,992 housing units, yet the Hobbs Administration has a "Solar Map" showing land closest to urban areas is "best" for solar. The Court recently ruled Hobbs' moratorium was illegal. According to some estimates, Arizona taxpayers could be on the hook for up to \$500 million to \$1 billion dollars in damages owed to affected homebuilders.

Awards & Recognition

Arizona State Senator David Gowan has been a recognized leader on the issues that matter most to Legislative District 19. Here are some of the key awards and accomplishments he has earned for his public service:

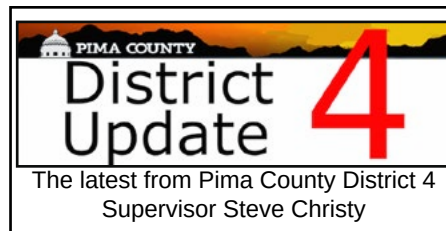
- Top Law Enforcement Supporter, AZ Fraternal Order of Police
- Hero of the Taxpayer, Americans for Prosperity
- Distinguished Legislator Award, American Legion
- Legislative Champion, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
- Legislator of the Year, Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Assoc.
- Champion of Arizona's Children, Vail School District

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For almost ten years now, when I arrive home after a long day and regale Mrs. Christy with the events of the day, she has said, "That's nice, dear, just fix the roads." And every day that has been the focus of your District 4 team. We have seen twists and turns, so to speak, in road repair and expansions in the Greater Vail Area over the years with both much success and some disappointments.

Our office just received the latest countywide road repair list for the upcoming fiscal year 2026-2027 and we are not pleased that a total of just 14 miles of roads in our vast district are scheduled to receive improvements of varying degrees. However, our Southeast Region will receive the bulk of the district's prioritized road repairs in these subdivisions and to one collector road:

- Del Webb at Rancho del Lago – Phase II
- New Tucson – Unit No. 4
- Rancho del Lago - Block 27
- Rancho del Lago – Block D
- Santa Rita Shadows
- Sycamore Canyon Estates
- Rex Molly Road

The full list, with specific roads identified, will be posted on our District 4 webpage soon.

Your District 4 team meets regularly with the Director and Staff of Pima County's Department of Transportation which affords us the face-to-face opportunity to review, monitor, and advocate

improvements to the Greater Vail area's road system. PCDOT knows very well the emphasis we place on fixing the roads, particularly since the fastest growing area of Pima County is right here in our Southeast Region.

Our office is fortunate to have two District 4 team members serving on Pima County's Transportation Advisory Committee where we have an on-going presence and a unified voice in assuring our region's road and transportation infrastructure issues are heard and addressed. All we ask continually, above all else, is for Pima County to "just fix the roads".

On the State Legislative front, all attempts at insurance industry reform, including increasing the notification for cancellation of policies and greater transparency in underwriting, were blocked this session. Progress was made with the Department of Insurance & Financial Institutions to strengthen the fire response plans submitted by various utilities.

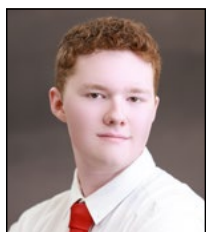
Due to the overall budget shortfall, the Department of Forestry & Fire Management did not receive any material increase in funding. However, the base appropriation, which includes just over \$10 million for wildfire management, was included in the approved state budget.

All of these will remain top legislative priorities next year for your District 4 office and Pima County will continue to work with the coalition of cities and counties that are all supportive of these measures.

Pima County Supervisor
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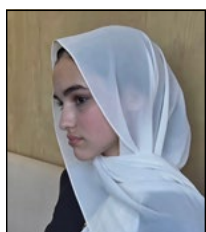
Best of the Class 2026



Cienega HS
Valedictorian
**Sebastian
Michael Kleber**

Plans to study mathematics and computer science in college focused in AI or Quant Finance field.

"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."



Vail Acad. & HS
Salutatorian
**Fatima-Zohra
Charette**

Plans to attend Pima Community college to study biology on a pre-med track.

"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!"



Vail Acad. & HS
Valedictorian
Xiamara Sende

Plans to attend major in neuroscience at the University of Wisconsin while completing my pre-med coursework.

"During my senior year, I learned that life will always have challenges, so you have to choose which challenging things are worth pursuing. Stepping out of your comfort zone, asking questions, and adapting when plans change does not mean failure, it means growth and learning to move forward."

The Vail Voice apologizes to these three dedicated, talented and bright students for the misprint in the June 2026 headline story. We're sorry for any confusion. Featured here are the full quotes of **Sebastian Kleber**, Valedictorian of Cienega High School 2026, **Xiamara Sende**, Valedictorian of Vail Academy & High School 2026 and **Fatima-Zohra Charette**, Salutatorian of Vail Academy & High School 2026.

So Proud of Our Students!

Lucretia Free

**VUSD
Update**



The Latest from Vail School District
Superintendent John Carruth

As we wrap-up another successful school year, I'm excited to share a few highlights before we embark on the next school year in just a few short weeks. Children in Vail have benefited greatly from the rich academic and well rounded programming including fine arts, PE and sports, advanced and gifted programming, career and technical education, and more. These rich offerings that enable students to thrive are provided by you, a community who believes deeply in our motto that Vail is a place, "Where Education Is a Community Effort." Each of you own a piece of the success described below.



We were excited as our school report cards came in, and Corona Foothills Middle School was named the top ranked middle school in the state for the fourth consecutive year. Further, Vail tied several districts for the second spot with a 3.8 GPA for districts across Arizona with ten or more schools. Our mission is to provide parents with safe and nurturing school communities where their children can obtain a quality education. By these measures, our children are obtaining a quality education.

We also know the importance of producing well-rounded young people for their next steps in life. Our students' achievements this year highlight the quality programming offered in Vail that help our students to grow in ways beyond just academics.

"John Carruth" continued on page 16

**CONSTRUCTION
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Sprouts on Old Vail Road construction continues and is scheduled to open late 2026/early 2027.

You may have seen the adjacent pads in the Sprouts parking lot. According to the developer, stores scheduled to open there include:

Nothing Bundt Cakes, Ava Nails, JA Ramen and Scented Leaf. One space remains unsigned which is 2200 sq.ft.

In the other pad, will be: Pinkberry, Mattress Firm and First Watch.

Across the street in Houghton Town Center, construction has already begun for Chipotle.



Houghton Family Dental Care is open and taking appointments.

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GREATER VAILCHAMBER
UPDATE



The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls,
President / CEO

Providing Business Leaders Direct Access to Candidates: Reflections on the Southeast Legislative Candidate Forum



On June 16, the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the Southeast Legislative Candidate Forum at Galaxy Theatres, bringing together 15 candidates and 64 attendees for an evening focused on information sharing and community dialogue.

The purpose of the forum was simple: to provide business leaders, employers, and community members with an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking public office and learn more about their perspectives on issues that may affect the local economy, workforce, infrastructure, public safety, education, and the overall business environment.

The Chamber did not endorse, support, or oppose any candidate or political party. Candidates from Legislative Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 that serve or impact the Southeast Arizona region were invited to participate. These legislative districts were included because they encompass communities within and surrounding the Greater Vail area and have a direct impact on the residents, employers, and businesses served by the Chamber. Participation was voluntary, and attendance reflected those candidates who accepted the invitation.

For business owners and employers, public policy decisions often

influence workforce development, transportation, economic growth, regulations, and community investment. Providing direct access to candidates helps business leaders become better informed about the individuals who may help shape those decisions in the future.

Throughout the evening, candidates responded to questions and discussed their priorities for serving the region. Attendees had the opportunity to hear candidates explain their positions, discuss issues affecting Southeast Arizona, and gain insight into topics important to the local business community.

The event focused on issues that influence the economic vitality and quality of life of the region, including workforce needs, infrastructure, public safety, education, and economic development. These topics have implications for employers, employees, families, and communities throughout Southeast Arizona.

The Chamber believes informed business leaders are better equipped to navigate change, plan for the future, and engage constructively in their communities. Creating opportunities for education and dialogue is an important part of supporting a strong local economy.

The Southeast Legislative Candidate Forum reflected the Chamber's ongoing commitment to serving as a resource for its members and the broader community. By providing access to information and encouraging informed engagement, the Chamber helps connect business leaders with the issues and decision-makers that affect the future of Southeast Arizona.

The Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce appreciates the candidates, attendees, volunteers, **"Dr. Denise Bowls" cont. on page 8**



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CASWELL

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Adobes, Nations, and the Work to Maintain Them.

Historic buildings, like nations, are often imagined as unchanging monuments. But as anyone who has restored an old structure knows, nothing stays standing for long without work. If we do not commit to active maintenance, structures don't just sit there, they fall into ruin.

Sometimes, the very things done in the past to "protect" a building are what hollow it out. Take the Old Vail Post Office. Decades ago, well-meaning people coated its adobe walls in concrete believing its strength would make the post office stand forever. But concrete traps moisture. Beneath that rigid shell, water leached salt out of adobes, quietly turning portions of the walls into dust. To save the building, Vail Preservation Society had to painstakingly remove the concrete layer and replace some adobes with new ones uncorrupted by salt.

The parallel to the American project as we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is striking. Throughout the history of the United States, corrosive systems like chattel slavery and Jim Crow gnawed at our founding ideals of liberty. Like concrete on adobe, these systems were defended as protective measures, but they were hollowing out our democratic core from the inside. To preserve the Union, everyday Americans struggled, fought, and died to scour them away. And for centuries, the constant influx of new people, fresh ideas, and diverse perspectives keep the gears of the American experiment turning.

We must also be cautious not to

confuse longevity with resilience. The Old Vail Post Office survived for generations with tons of soil piled on the ceiling to keep its walls stable through sheer weight. In 2011, a microburst hit the post office and the roof that had held fast for 103 years failed in an instant. Relying on civic and economic systems simply because "they haven't failed yet" is not prudent. Sometimes the foundations must be underpinned to keep the roof on.

There was no golden age of America for us to hold in amber, just as there is no single era to interpret the history of the Old Vail Post Office, a building that has served as a saloon, a home, a post office, and soon the Vail Welcome and Heritage Center. The United States is a living idea that requires our investment. This July 4th I invite you to celebrate and reflect on your place in the American yearning to form a more perfect union.

By Gerald Lamb



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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 250 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,

Approaching retirement, I remember that forty years ago, my father strongly advised me to contribute as much as I could to my employer's 401K retirement account. They matched 5%. He advised me to direct 75% of my 401K contributions into the 401K's SP500 stock fund option and 25% into a bond fund option. For the last 100 years, the stock market has averaged about 10% growth, annually. I contributed 10% for 20 years. The market crashed in 2008 due to the mortgage fiasco. I didn't panic. I stuck with the SP500 fund. I even increased my contributions to 15%.

The market recovered within 5 years and my 401K grew. It has really exploded since 2020. The years in that range each grew by 20-25%. I was recently stunned to find out how many others I know have "played it safe" for 30 to 40 years by directing their money into bond funds that paid anywhere from 2.5% to 4.5%, annually.

Squirrelling your money in bonds for decades should not be considered as "playing it safe". Vail's high schools are excellent, but they should also teach students about life economics and that "investing" for retirement is far better than

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"saving". I know. I know. No 17-, or 18-year-old is thinking about retirement, but 'The Golden Years' can sneak up quickly. My only regret: not directing all 100% of my contributions into the SP500 fund for 40 years. Oh well, lessons learned.

Steve Langstroth

Dear Editor,

One-size-fits-all is a relic of the past. The new era demands individualized healthcare, diets, and educational plans. Arizona boldly moved education into that new era in 2022 when the legislature let money follow students instead of systems with Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESA). Parents know their child best therefore do an optimal job designing their own child's education, plus most years they spend less than the full scholarship through their efficiency. According to Joint Legislative Budget Committee, it costs taxpayers nearly \$16,000 to educate a child in an Arizona public school, versus the typical \$7,500 ESA.

Powerful outside groups are using "Protect Education Act" to steal the funds parents saved through efficiency to funnel to administrators who already lost parents' trust and contributed nothing to these

children's education. They call it "protecting" education, but they're stripping children of the ability to pursue learning that fits them. The money is allocated per student so it shouldn't be forced back into a school they aren't attending.

These groups also want heavy-handed scrutiny of parents' spending, ignoring the bigger issue: decades of unaccountable administrators spending heaps of money while public proficiency and growth weaken. District schools have practically no accountability compared to line-by-line transparency of ESA. Meanwhile, ESA guidelines improve yearly without added red tape.

I loved being homeschooled until 3rd grade, but my low-income family couldn't sustain it. ESA would have given my parents that freedom. Now my son gets personalized education that I never did. Decline to sign the "Protect Education Act".

Brett Williams

Dear Editor,

If you are approached by a circulator asking for your signature for an initiative related to Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) - decline to sign! There are two initiatives currently gathering signatures and both would significantly disrupt the education of thousands of Arizona students, including special education (SPED) students who depend on ESA and make up 20% of scholarship recipients.

The ESA allows any Arizona family to direct 90% of the state funds allocated for their child's education to pay for home education, private school tuition, tutors, curriculum, therapies, and more, creating an education curated toward their unique learning needs. However, the "Protect Education Act" and the "Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Reform And Accountability Act" would both be

destructive to ESA students. If the Protect Education Act passes it would steal scholarship funds from special needs students every two years if parents haven't spent their account to zero, and give their dollars to public schools. This would punish families who carefully save leftover funds for increased needs as the child reaches higher grades. In addition, the initiative will discourage private schools from integrating SPED students due to excessive mandates, make it harder for families to purchase educational materials and resources for their SPED children, and significantly limit SPED families' options when it comes to finding tutors, therapists, and schools.

Do you believe every Arizona child deserves an education that suits their unique needs, in an environment where they feel safe and supported? As an ESA mom, I urge you to #DeclineToSign.

Kerri Williams

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

Tyler James Arche, Doctor of Philosophy, Electrical Engineering, Ph.D., Iowa State University.



Mozart's Jupiter Symphony Number 41

Some 238 years ago, in 1788 Wolfgang Mozart composed his last Symphony. A friend and colleague, Johann Peter Salomon, (1745 – 1815), a German violinist and composer, reputedly named Mozart's Symphony No. 41 after Jupiter. It is also probable that Johann Cramer, a London music publisher, thought of Jupiter as well, perhaps linking the power of the opening chord to Jupiter's thunderbolts. Cramer was not thinking of Jupiter in the sky as much as the astrological Jupiter, portrayed by Shakespeare in Cymbeline.

Shakespeare was alive and well in January 1610 when Galileo discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter. Shakespeare was a contemporary of Galileo, both having been born in 1564 just two months apart. And Shakespeare was well into writing Cymbeline, and he completed the play in the same year that Galileo made his Jupiter discoveries:

O learned indeed were that astronomer
That knew the stars as I his characters;



He'd lay the future open.
(Cymbeline 3.2.37-39)

Traditionally, "that astronomer" is interpreted as a judicial astrologer, but those particular lines could be read differently. Could Posthumus's daughter Imogen, who spoke these lines, be looking at someone who is simply watching the sky? The future he lays open is not an astrological prediction. Instead Imogen imagines a watcher of the sky who, like Galileo, knew the stars. If this was Shakespeare's intention, then it may be his reaction to Galileo, whose discoveries of four moons of Jupiter earlier that same year appear as the ghosts preceding Jupiter in Posthumus's dream. Four apparitions -- Posthumus's father Leonatus, his mother, and his two brothers -- Guiderius and Arviragus, descend and surround him as he sleeps.

As the dream goes forward, Jupiter himself descends, accompanied by his legendary thunder, and the ghosts then fall on their knees. Paisano, a servant to Posthumus, links the four apparitions that

"Skyward" continued on page 25



Heat Optimist Club Youth Appreciation and Partner in Education Awards

On April 24, the Heat Optimist Club hosted a joint awards dinner for Youth Appreciation and Partner in Education honors. McKalyn Nails, a senior at Mica Mountain High School, received the Student Appreciation Award after being nominated by her teacher, Krista Gypton. Krista Gypton was also surprised with the Partner in Education award.

Youth Appreciation Award:

McKalyn is an outstanding young leader. She is consistently kind, helpful, and dependable, and has mentored incoming Freshmen as part of Thunder Crew for two years.

Partner in Education Award:

Krista is currently a Leadership Teacher at Mica Mountain High School. She is also a Tier 2 Intervention Specialist, Thunder Crew Advisor, and FCB Advisor (Future Christian Bolts). The Thunder Crew has helped wrap gifts and support the Heat Optimist Club's Kohl's Shopping Spree for the past several years. They have also helped our club with our Park Place Mall gift wrapping fundraiser during the holidays. Krista Gypton is a lifelong educator who makes an impact on our students. Her passion for student growth sets her apart. She meets students where they are and creates opportunities for them to grow and succeed as adults. Krista is thoughtful and brings creative, student-centered ideas to her work. Congratulations Krista!

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



"Dr. Denise Bowls" continued from page 4

sponsors, and community partners who contributed to the success of the event and helped create an informative and respectful forum for discussion.

To learn more about the Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce visit our website at greatervailchamber.com

Dr. Denise Bowls
President/CEO
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Save Water in the Garden

If you are new to Tucson and have been used to water flowing freely from the sky, you will need to adjust to the fact that we get very little rainfall, and we shovel sunshine daily. Here are newbie tips

Install Drip Irrigation

One of the best ways to water plants efficiently is with drip irrigation. The result is water being delivered directly to the root zone of plants, eliminating runoff and losses through evaporation. Using a hose works as well with a little more planning, **also be sure to run the hose as water can be scalding hot at this time of year** – keep this in mind as well with small children or when you go to wash down the dog.

Build a Rain Garden

Include a rain garden on your property to slow down and help filter pollutants from storm runoff. Rain gardens can be large or small and designed to include plants that appeal to your home's design aesthetic.

Install Water Need Plant Zones

Planting water needs zones is very helpful in saving water usage. Adding a shade tree is a great way to assist in the cooling of the garden and so doing reducing water for under story plantings.

Install Porous Hardscape

Consider porous materials when designing outdoor living areas. Gravel or pebble patios combine good looks with low-maintenance upkeep that's also easy on the environment. Porous surfaces allow water to drain freely, instead of creating storm runoff during monsoons. Remember organic mulch if used to maintain moisture around new plantings may need to be contained and replaced - as rain; your hose or extreme dryness may make it travel. Depending on the plant, you may improve the soil with garden compost mixed back with the native soil, or create a raised bed. If in doubt ask a garden professional as there are lots of different garden circumstances and preferences.

Special Note: Some neighborhoods have restrictions on what can be planted and even the gravel that can be installed. If in doubt check it out.

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Try Gratitude For Our 250th

By Chuck Colbath

Recently, John mentioned that several customers were chatting about how accustomed we are to all that we have. It took a lot of progress and innovation to get us where we are. With that progress came new challenges. And we have so many influences in our lives these days that sometimes we only see one side. Influencers today have many reasons for aiming the conversation in a certain direction, often without gratitude guiding them, and what we see or hear may not be reality. Great news! There is a way around it, but it takes a little effort. Luckily, we can see both sides of the coin in our free country, and we all should consider each viewpoint and then decide for ourselves.

The resulting gratitude can be an effective antidote to modern cynicism, anger and feeling of entitle-

ment. From indoor plumbing, the automobile, and the advances in medicine, to name a few, we have so much to be grateful for every day.

A trip to the dentist illustrated just how spoiled we have become. As the dentist was applying something to numb my gums to eliminate the pain of the shot that was next to come, which was also to avoid pain, I thought back to the battlefields of our early country, when arrows were removed and limbs were amputated without anesthesia. Gratitude for those numbing agents was duly noted!

At Babilon we are excited about our country having reached two hundred and fifty years of freedom, and are grateful for it.

Gratitude is something we should all have in us. The love we share for our country, and the success that has made the United States of America the best country on the

planet, is now on full display. As a country that is still young, our winning principles have made us the strongest and most respected country on earth. This is a good time to think about how great our path is, however difficult at times, and how our future is only limited by how gracious we are to each other. After all, gratitude is catchy, and reminding ourselves to be grateful will only help us to be happier!

In a time when old fashioned caring service seems to be a thing of the past, you can still find it at Babilon Salon. Free unhurried consultations with the stylist of your choice is a great way to get acquainted. It is a co-operative environment in which the stylists recognize they all have different approaches, and work as a team to best satisfy clients' varying needs.

Please stop in for a look! We look forward to the opportunity to

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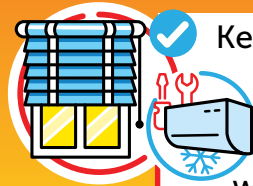
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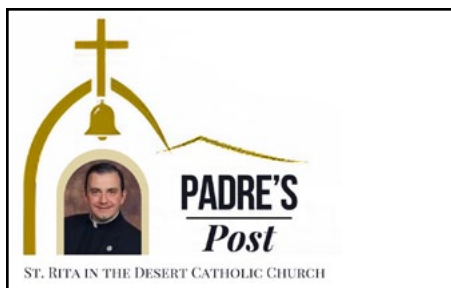


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As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, it is worth reflecting on the principles that helped shape our country. Many of America's founders understood freedom not merely as a political idea, but as a gift from God rooted in timeless truths.

The Liberty Bell bears the inscription from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." This biblical understanding of liberty influenced generations of Americans who believed that

human dignity and fundamental rights come from our Creator and not from government alone.

Founders such as John Adams and Noah Webster often spoke about the influence of Christianity on the development of our nation. They recognized that a free society depends not only upon laws and institutions, but also upon virtue, personal responsibility, and respect for one another.

As we celebrate Independence Day, we can be grateful for the many blessings we enjoy as Americans. We can also remember that freedom carries responsibilities. It calls us to serve our neighbors, care for our communities, and seek the common good.

In a time when differences can easily divide us, may we choose respect over hostility, understanding over division, and kindness

"Padre's Post"
continued on page 25

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ReSources is Expanding to Meet the Growing Community Need

Something exciting is taking shape at ReSources, and it's all about making more room to serve our neighbors and greater access to interesting inventory at our Vail Depot Thrift Store.

A new food storage building has been installed behind the existing Food Bank and is receiving its finishing touches now! The new building will nearly double our storage space and will allow us to move nonperishables out of our current food bank. We are making room for volunteers to sort more groceries, prepare more distributions, and serve more families with



greater efficiency and care.

As the need in our community continues to grow, this added space ensures we can serve all seeking assistance, while creating a safer, more welcoming environment for everyone involved. We are looking ahead to a Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting

Celebration later this summer, when we can officially open the doors and celebrate this milestone together. Keep an eye out for announcements; we can't wait to welcome the community into this new space!

We are also excited to share that the Vail Depot Thrift Store has launched a new online shop, offering a curated selection of items not available in-store. Shopping categories include Apparel & Accessories, Media, Toys & Hobbies, Kitchen & Dining, Art & Decor, and Jewelry. Volunteers and staff are carefully identifying items that are in some cases high value and of unique interest. You will also find affordable and fun items for a well-rounded shopping experience right from the comfort of your own home.

The online store is located at www.ResourcesVail.org/Thrift-Store. Shop with a purpose; browse online, purchase your

favorite finds, and pick them up locally at the Depot. Items cannot be shipped or delivered. And as always, every purchase helps fund our Food Bank programs. You can also find the Vail Depot Thrift Store on Instagram and Facebook. Whether you lend a hand, shop the store, or simply help spread the word, you are part of what makes this work possible. Together, we are building something truly meaningful for our community. 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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Behind Us, Even More Ahead

Company Superintendent Carruth's column



Vail School District Foundation

The Vail School District Foundation is filled with gratitude for the incredible generosity and community spirit of our valued donors. We are proud to celebrate and sincerely thank Leber Ortho, Swaim Associates, WAXIE, Bavillon Salon, Hughes Federal Credit Union, and Vantage West Credit Union for their unwavering support of our students, teachers, and schools. Your kindness and commitment help bring meaningful opportunities to life through classroom grants, student scholarships, and programs that inspire innovation, growth, and achievement across the district. Because of your generosity, dreams are nurtured, ideas are encouraged, and students are empowered to reach their fullest potential.

Partnerships like yours are a true reflection of what makes the Vail

community so extraordinary. Your investment in education goes far beyond financial support—it sends a powerful message to students and educators that their success matters and that an entire community believes in them. Together, we are creating brighter futures and opening doors to new possibilities for generations to come. Thank you for being champions of education and for making such a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of Vail School District students and families.



"John Carruth" cont. from page 3

Vail enjoyed TWO athletic state championships this year. Congratulations again to Mica Mountain High School for winning their second consecutive football state title. And, congratulations to the Cienega Boys' Volleyball team for bringing home their second state championship! Vail also saw several individual student state champions in golf, swimming, wrestling, and track and field.

Further, Cienega's Copper Thunder Marching Band ended their season with a regional win and a second place finish at the state competition. Numerous musical ensembles from all of our high schools brought home superior and excellent ratings from festivals. We saw an increase in the number of students who earned spots in the regional band, orchestra, and choir after rigorous auditions. And, three of our students even earned seats in all state music programs! Not to be outdone, Cienega and Empire theatre programs brought home several coveted Monte awards this year.

In May, graduation ceremonies highlighted that our students are thriving in the programming listed above. We celebrated the accomplishments of well rounded young people who are accepting scholarships at universities as diverse as Dartmouth, Embry Riddle, and Purdue University and as local as the University of Arizona. We

celebrated students who will be entering our armed services and serving with pride, and we celebrated students who will be entering the workforce with industry certifications... all of whom will be contributing members of our communities!

By multiple measures, parents in Vail are finding a place where their children can obtain a quality education. Your partnership makes that possible. We are proud of our graduates and our students who have accomplished so much this year. As we celebrate these successes together, know that your support of things like the override helps provide the programs that make these achievements possible. Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to the upcoming year and another chapter filled with quality opportunities for Vail's young people.

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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CONTEMPLATIONS

Thoughtful Ponderances ...

Cactus Combat

If you've lived in Arizona for any length of time, you've likely been introduced, either directly or preferably indirectly, to the stunning and sometimes numbing Cholla Cactus. Standing as a grand, majestic torch; its arms raised to the heavens with bundles of opalescent, glistening spikes held aloft like a gladiator's sword, this little cactus reminds all who dare to come near to stop! Take a breath. Then marvel at its beauty from a safe distance.

I've shared the trails with countless critters, including rattle snakes, tortoises, rabbits, Gila monsters, deer and Bobcats with-

out incident or any direct threat to my well-being. On a recent hike I spotted a multi-colored stone in the desert sand and picked it up to admire. I wanted to take a photo of it, and noticing a small Cholla nearby, I carefully placed the stone on the top of one its sturdy arms in order to focus my camera in the sunlight for a clear photo. As I gently lifted the stone from its temporary perch to return it to the desert, a small, round, threatening ball of terror, like a "spiked alien sputnik" ripped away from its launch pad and grabbed the back of my hand, embedding itself near my knuckles.

I let out an audible gasp and looked around for a small stick in order to gently pry it from my fingers. Unfortunately, however, once separated from the mother plant, a Cholla segment instantly adheres to whatever and whom-ever it touches. The fish-hook-like spines grow only in one direction, which allows them to go deep into



the skin. And stay there.

As I gingerly placed the stick between my hand and the cactus, I moved just enough to have that little ball of fire hop a few inches across my skin, jump to my other hand and glue several fingers together. Instinctively reaching to free my impaled fingers, I suddenly found both hands fastened tight to one another, leaving me little chance of finding a third hand to set me free.

Despite their despicable habit of attaching themselves to people,

jumping Chollas are some of the prettiest cactus plants in the desert, producing lovely pink and lavender flowers from late May and into June.

When this all came to an end, I realized that I had inadvertently created some new dance steps as I hopped and shouted my way across the hot sand. I've named it The Cholla Cha Cha.

Sorry, I don't offer lessons.

Khevin Barnes lives in Vail with his wife, two cats and a desert tortoise. He spends an inordinate amount of time hiking the local trails and getting into trouble.



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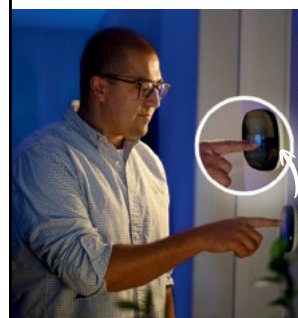
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New Nonprofit Dog Rescue Opens in Vail with a Mission of Hope

A new nonprofit organization is bringing hope to homeless dogs in Vail and the surrounding communities. RK Bear Rescue, a family-founded dog rescue, was created with the simple goal of helping dogs in need find safe, loving homes.

The inspiration for RK Bear Rescue came after a local family began volunteering together at Pima Animal Care Center. While helping care for shelter dogs, they saw that no matter how many dogs were adopted, more continued to arrive. Inspired to make a difference, they decided to become part of the solution.

RK Bear Rescue is named after siblings Riley and Kyla and their first rescue dog, Bear. Today, the nonprofit focuses on rescuing dogs in need, educating the community about responsible pet ownership, and promoting the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

The rescue recently opened its first facility in Vail in a creative way. The family overhauled and transformed an older, non-drivable RV into safe, comfortable kennel space for rescue dogs. The project reflects the organization's commitment to finding practical solutions while making the most of available resources.

One of the most rewarding parts of rescue work is seeing the transformation that happens when a dog is given a second chance. With patience, training, and love,



dogs that may have faced uncertain futures can become loyal companions and cherished family members.

RK Bear Rescue currently has two dogs available for adoption and is actively searching for families willing to open their hearts and homes. Every adoption not only changes the life of a dog but also creates space for another animal in need to receive help.

As a nonprofit organization, RK Bear Rescue relies on community support to continue its work. The rescue raises funds through donations, handmade pottery, children's books, and aluminum can recycling partnerships with local businesses and organizations. These efforts help provide food, veterinary care, training, and shelter for dogs in need.

Whether you're looking to adopt, volunteer, donate, purchase handmade pottery, or simply follow along on the journey, RK Bear Rescue welcomes community involvement. To learn more, meet available dogs, or support the mission, visit RKBearRescue.org or follow @RKBearRescue on social media. Together, we can help more dogs find loving homes and the second chances they deserve.



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Beat the Monsoon Weeds:
Why Pre-Emergent Weed
Control Is Essential

If you've lived in the Vail area for any length of time, you already know what happens the moment those first monsoon storms roll in — the desert turns green almost overnight. Unfortunately, this includes unwanted weeds. The good news? Pre-emergent weed control applied before the monsoons arrive will significantly reduce weed issues in your yard.

What Is Pre-Emergent Weed
Control?

Pre-emergent herbicide is exactly what it sounds like — a treatment applied before weeds emerge from the soil. Rather than killing weeds you can already see, pre-emergent create a chemical barrier in the soil that prevents weed seeds from germinating in the first place.

The Best Time to Apply
Pre-Emergent Weed Control

For Vail, the ideal window to apply pre-emergent treatments is June and July — right before and as the monsoon moisture begins. An application at the right time creates a protective barrier that dramatically reduces the number of weeds you'll battle in August and September.

Why Professional Weed Control?

Store-bought products can offer some benefit, but professional weed control ensures:

- **Proper application rate.** Professional technicians know exactly how much to apply per square foot providing an effective and safe treatment.
- **Even coverage.** Gaps in coverage mean gaps in protection. A professional application ensures

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- **Experience with local conditions.** Southern Arizona's caliche soils, gravel landscaping, and unique microclimates all affect how weed control products perform. Local experience matters.

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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.

Every Tuesday, 9-11 AM

New Beginnings Community Church Women's Bible Study. A Study of 2 Corinthians. 16540 South Houghton Rd. Corona de Tucson, AZ 85741. cdtbchurch28@gmail.com

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.

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!

Mon, July 13, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Sharon O'Brien, Executive Director, and Julie Wolfe Beadle, Chief Development Officer, Literacy Connects, "How Does Literacy Affect Southern Arizona?" The two leaders from Literacy Con-

nects will demonstrate their research by sharing stories that illustrate the profound difference literacy can make in a person's life.

Fri, July 17, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: University of Arizona faculty artists, bassoonist Marissa Olegario and pianist Rie Tanaka, showcase the bassoon's unique voice in a Bassoon Sonata by St. Saens, and contemporary works by Amanda Harberg and Jessie Montgomery.

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.

Mon, July 20, 3 p.m.

ASA* Lecture by Teresa Miguel-Stearns, J.D., Associate Dean of Legal Information Innovation at the U of A. College of Law, "The Intertwined History of Indian Land Dispossession, Arizona Statehood, and University Enrichment." Prof. Miguel Sterns reviews effects of an 1862 law that confiscated indigenous people's lands and gave them to the state.

Fri, July 24, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The "Blue Dream Trio" debuts at ASA with vocalist Chelsee Hicks, saxophonist Brian Hicks, and jazz guitarist Joshua Rhoades, performing traditional jazz standards with exciting instrumental colors.

Mon, July 27, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Martin Randall: Independent Arts Scholar and Speaker, Tucson Art Talks, "John Singer Sargent: Images from the Gilded Age." The speaker shares how John Singer Sargent, shaped by a cosmopolitan yet outsider upbringing, became a leading Gilded Age portraitist known for captivating, sometimes controversial works.

Fri, July 31, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: "The Van Dykes" bring familiar Arizona Blues Hall of Famers in a new combination for the ASA. Guitarist Danny Krieger, bassist

Larry Lee Lerma, and drummer Ralph Gilmore play and sing oldies, rock, blues, country, British Invasion, Americana and more!

Fri, August 7, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The McCallion Family Band returns with sister/brother Nancy & Neil McCallion, Nancy's husband Danny Krieger, and good friend, drummer Les Merrihew, for rockin' Americana and originals that look back on lives fully lived.

Tues, Aug. 11, 11:30 a.m.

ASA* Concert: The Tucsonics are Arizona's favorite Western Swing band, playing tunes from the 30's through 50's - Bob Wills, Spade Cooley, Gene Autry and more - with fiddler Nick Coventry, console steel player Alvin Blaine, guitarist Matt Mitchell, upright bassist Evan Dain, and drummer Fred Hayes.

*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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Christian lady seeking a Christian family for live in nanny helper: cooking cleaning being part of the family whatever do these need to be done I have experience working with special needs children. I know sign language. Have small dog. Call Jackie 520-246-6153.

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

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Happy 250th Birthday America

Elisabeth Bell's
Coloring Page



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sale of this image in any form without a legal license and written consent
provided by the Artist.

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

Easy Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

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Word Search

90's Songs 1

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

ALL STAR	HOLE HEARTED	MY ALL	SOMEDAY
ALWAYS	I WISH	NEVER EVER	SUMMERTIME
BLACK VELVET	IESHA	ONLY YOU	TENNESSEE
CARNIVAL	INVISIBLE MAN	PUSH	THA CROSSROADS
COME UNDONE	JOYRIDE	RHYTHM NATION	THE ONE
DO ANYTHING	JUMP	ROAM	TOM'S DINER
EVERY HEARTBEAT	LITHIUM	ROMANTIC	TORN
FREAK ME	LOSER	RUN AWAY	VOGUE
GLYCERINE	MACARENA	RUSH RUSH	WICKED GAME
HAZARD	MMMBOP	SCAR TISSUE	WONDER
HEARTBREAKER	MOVE THIS	SENSITIVITY	YOU LEARN
HEY LOVER	MR. WENDAL	SHOOP	

Finding Support Together:

Upcoming Therapy Groups at Mindful Vision Counseling

Life can feel overwhelming, but you do not have to navigate it alone. Mindful Vision Counseling is excited to announce upcoming in-person and virtual therapy groups designed to support individuals, teens, parents, and families throughout Vail, Tucson, and surrounding communities.

Planned Groups Include:

- Trauma Recovery & Healing
- Teen Anxiety & Stress Management
- ADHD & Executive Functioning Support
- Parenting Support & Connection
- Digital Wellness & Screen Addiction

These groups will provide a supportive environment to learn practical coping skills, connect with others facing similar challenges, and build resilience. Many insurance, FSA and HSA plans accepted.

Whether you are seeking support for yourself, your teen, or your family, our goal is to create a welcoming space for growth, healing, and connection.

We encourage you to contact Mindful Vision Counseling.

By A. Whitney Shea,
MA, LPC TLMHC



need some support?

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

thevailvoice.com

"Headline Story" cont. from page 1



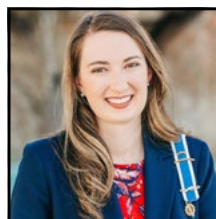
Burns' The American Revolution series.

Arizona Daughters joined with the Sons of the American Revolution in the Two Lights for Tomorrow ceremony at the Arizona State Capitol, commemorating Paul Revere's Ride and the opening of the battles at Lexington and Concord. This past spring, Arizona Daughters also sponsored the first all-female veteran Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Nationally, Daughters have supported the preservation of National Park Service sites, including the care and preservation of Washington, D.C.'s iconic cherry trees. They have also expanded civic education programs and completed numerous service projects to preserve our nation's parks, monuments, and public spaces.

As part of America250, the Daughters encourage everyone to serve their communities and give back this July 4 rather than waiting until the end of the year. Serving others on this day is a meaningful way to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought so valiantly to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

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



"Padre's Post" cont. from page 12
over indifference. Let us continue building bridges within our community and working together for the good of all.

May God bless our community, bless the United States of America, and guide us as we strive to live in freedom, gratitude, and hope.

Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic Church, Vail, Arizona

"Skyward" continued from page 8

precede Jupiter to the four moons that Galileo has discovered using his telescope, but Jupiter's actual descent is accompanied by an indefinite number of ghosts.

The four apparitions appear at the start of Posthumus's dream. Jupiter does descend accompanied by an eagle and an undetermined number of additional ghosts. Could these ghosts represent still undiscovered moons? In either case it is exciting to find Shakespeare possibly responding to Galileo in this positive way. Jupiter lays a tablet on the sleeping Posthumus, who awakes soon after to find that it is actually a book, which is likely Galileo's seminal *Siderius Nuncius*. Similarly at the end of *The Tempest* Miranda, now also the name of a Uranian moon, speaks of new ideas and new philosophies:

O wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is!
Oh brave new world
That hath such people in't!
(*Tempest* 5.1.183-186.)

We now leap to 1994 and the impact of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter. At the time I was working with George Cruz, then with the Nature Company. My book *Skywatching* had been released that April, and George had organized a massive series of

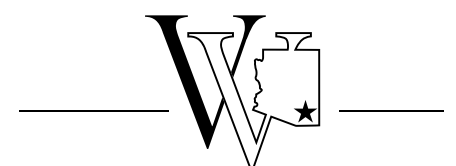
book signings at Nature Company stores across the United States. By far the biggest one was at the store in Washington, which took place during impact week. Carolyn Shoemaker accompanied me to this location. So did more than a thousand people, who formed a line that stretched through the store and around the block. I shall never forget Carolyn's quip: "Are all your book signings this crowded?"

At this store and at all the other stores, background music was playing, and it was always Mozart's Jupiter symphony. The music became a part of me.

As I have written before, Jupiter is my favorite planet because it is the first thing I ever looked at through a telescope, and it remains so because...

The fabulous music of the Jupiter symphony is a part of my memory from that propitious time. It strikes my heart like church bells. Jupiter's thunderbolts do not sound loudly, but as the planet glows majestically in the northwestern sky these nights, it pierces the core of my being and my life, and it continues to entrance my soul.

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.





SEAC July 2026

South East Area Council of Pima County has been reorganizing the committee structure of SEAC to be user friendly for the community. The Administrative Support Committee provides avenues of communication to residents and community programs.

First and foremost SEAC is attempting to promote engaging and consistent communication with residents of the south east Pima County through email, a website, and articles in the Vail Voice. Facebook will be added at a later date.

infor@seacpimacounty.org is SEAC's email address. If you have not gotten your email for the next community meeting, please look in your trash or spam folder because emails not familiar to your email system may go directly to one of these folders. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send SEAC an email. Also, if you have questions or ideas you would like SEAC to explore send an email to SEAC.

SEAC has developed a website which will be added to as time progresses. The website is: <https://www.seacpimacounty.org/>

Community meetings have been the heart and soul of SEAC in the past and will continue. The community meetings may be viewed live at <https://www.facebook.com/thevailvoice/> and are posted on the Vail Voice Facebook page. July 21, 2026 from 5pm – 7:00 pm in the Vail Chamber of Commerce Conference Room at 13105 E Colossal Cave Rd is the next

community meeting. The topic is "Connect Pima-Strategic Plan 2026-2030", which promotes the provision of affordable internet services to all county residents.

By Carol A. Wagner Williams
info@seacpimacounty.org



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Why Summer Is Sneakily One of the Most Expensive Times of the Year

Summer in Southern Arizona means your routine already looks different. You're planning your day around the heat. The A/C is running longer. Even dinner changes because turning on the oven at 100° just isn't happening.

Somewhere in the middle of all that, spending changes, too. Most people don't notice it right away. But by the end of the season, many households feel it.

Summer consistently ranks among the most expensive times of year for Americans, with average seasonal spending hovering around \$2,200 per person.

Not because of one big purchase. Just everything happening at once.

Summer spending stacks up
Summer spending here isn't always about splurging. It's about layering.

A drive up to Mt. Lemmon. A quick trip to San Diego or Rocky Point. More meals out. More gas. More things to keep the kids busy. At the same time, your regular expenses haven't gone anywhere. So instead of replacing your normal spending, summer just adds to it.

Try this: Split your spending into "normal" and "seasonal." That second category is usually bigger than people expect.

Travel adds up fast
Even a simple getaway comes with layers: gas or flights, hotels, meals, activities and all the little "we're already here" extras.

On average, Americans expect to spend around \$3,900 on summer travel, often for just one trip. That makes it easy to see how quickly the season can stretch a budget.

Try this: Add a 20–30% cushion to your travel budget upfront.

Cooling your home isn't optional In Southern Arizona, running your A/C isn't a luxury. It's survival.

Across the U.S., households usually spend around \$700–\$780 just to keep their homes cool over the summer. In hotter regions like Arizona, those costs can climb even higher.

Try this: If your utility company offers budget billing, it can help smooth out those spikes.

When timing is the real issue
For many households, the pressure point isn't overspending. It's overlap. A higher utility bill lands at the same time as a car repair. A trip hits the same month as back-to-school prep. A few bigger expenses just happen to stack.

That's where Hughes' summer loan options can help.

With a fixed rate, set monthly payment and clear payoff timeline, a personal loan can offer more structure than carrying a credit card balance. It can be especially helpful for unexpected car repairs, consolidating higher-interest balances or covering a planned expense that hits at the wrong time.

Summer is still worth it. The goal is to understand what the season actually costs, so you can enjoy it without carrying it into the next one.

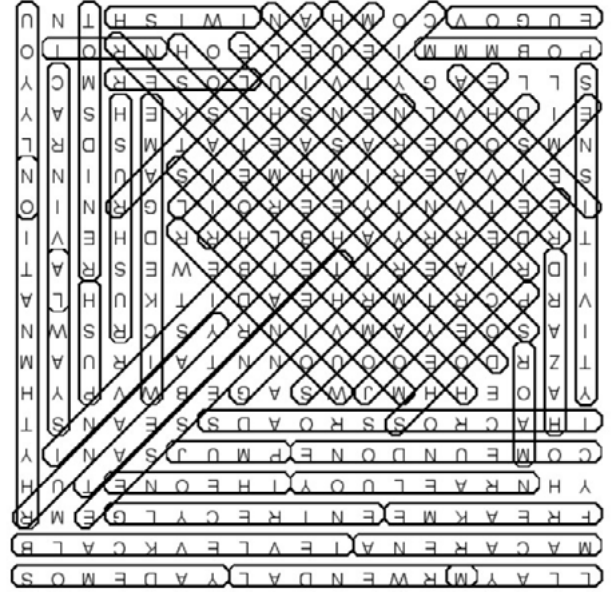
Apply for a Hughes summer loan today at HughesFCU.org/SummerLoan



Word Search

Solved

The hidden song title is: MY HEART WILL GO ON



1 songs

06

ALL STAR
ALWAYS
NEVER EVER
ONLY YOU
BLACK VELVET
CARNIVAL
PUSH
RHYTHM NATION
ROMA
EVERY HEARTBEAT
ROMANTIC
FREAK ME
RUN AWAY
RUSH RUSH
SCAR TISSUE
SENSITIVITY
SHOOP
SOMEDAY
SUMMERTIME
TENNESSEE
THE CROSSROADS
THE ONE
TOM'S DINER
TORN
VOGUE
WICKED GAME
WONDER
YOU LEARN
MR. WENDAL
MOVE THIS
MMMBOP
MACARENA
LOSER
LITTIUM
JUMP
JOYRIDE
INVISIBLE MAN
IESHA
I WISH
HOLE HEARTED
HEY LOVER
HEARTBREAKER
HAZARD
GLYCERINE
FREAK ME
DO ANYTHING
COME UNDONE
RHYTHM NATION
PUSH
BLACK VELVET
CARNIVAL
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ALWAYS



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