

I hope you are sitting down, as I fear this month's column may shock you. It's time for the Pima County Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget tax-rate approval hearing on Aug. 17, and here's the news – brace yourself - property taxes are going up.



The primary property tax rate, which is the most significant taxation authority the Board of Supervisors has control over, will be increasing by 7.9 cents per \$100 of your home or business property's assessed value over last year's rate, resulting in a combined property tax rate (Primary plus Library & Flood Control Districts and Debt Service) increase of 8.74 cents/\$100. This is unfortunate because the value of all taxable properties in Pima County has risen.

In years past, the Board would hold the tax rate steady, and blame increased property taxes on the rising property values, as they are determined by the County Assessor. This year, my colleagues could and, in my view, should have explored a revenue-neutral option and lowered the tax rate to offset the increase in assessed property values, keeping your tax bill the same as last year. Instead, there will be a double barrel tax increase in order to pay for programs previously funded by federal pandemic relief monies, and some pet projects.

One such project is "PEEPS", which stands for Pima Early Education Program Scholarships. PEEPS is really nothing more than enhanced pre-kindergarten day-

care for a small, select population at taxpayer expense. PEEPS has had some rather meandering funding sources over the last several years. The Board is contemplating expanding the program, with funding from the Library District tax and other sources (read General Fund/property taxes). Be sure to compare your next Library District Tax line item on your tax bill, compared to last year.

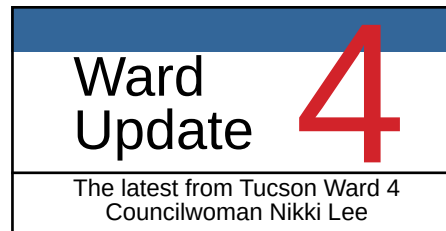
And don't forget my colleague's special project to spend \$250 million over ten years for taxpayer-funded public housing, paid out of the General Fund with property tax increases and, per the County's Prosperity Initiative, placed in "low poverty" areas.

Bear in mind these projects and associated tax increases were passed by the Board majority with no county-wide public meetings and negligible public knowledge.

We wonder what happened to the core functions and responsibilities of County Government such as road and infrastructure maintenance and repair, flood control, wildfire protections, public safety, parks and recreation, to name a few.

Adding to this troubling taxation atmosphere is Proposition 425, a Pima County initiative to increase the spending abilities of the Board of Supervisors over the statewide cap that voters approved back in 1980. While the amount has been adjusted for inflation since it was added to the State Constitution, Prop. 425 will allow the Board to spend more of your money. Look for it on the ballot and I'm sure common sense will prevail and that it will not pass. Just what we need right now - another opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to spend more of your money with a simple majority vote.

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



Folks often ask how government makes decisions. One of the main ways is with community members serving on City of Tucson advisory boards. The following committees have an open seat for someone living in Ward 4. If you are interested in serving, please email me a letter of interest and your resume to ward4@tucsonaz.gov



Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability

The Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability shall advise the Mayor and Council on: (a) the most effective and efficient methods of meeting the climate/energy/sustainability goals outlined in the City's General Plan (b) methods for improving the City's climate and environmental impact and adaptability in its operations; and (c) achieving the incremental as well as transformative systemic outcomes necessary to respond to climate, energy, and broader sustainability challenges in our region.
Meets as needed

Complete Streets Coordinating Council

The CSCC is responsible for actively overseeing and bringing accountability to the Complete Streets Policy implementation process. The CSCC, the Technical Review Committee (TRC), and an integrated team of City staff representing multiple departments shall work collaboratively and inclusively together in a coordinated way to implement the Complete Streets policy. *Meets: 4th Wednesday of the month @ 5:30 p.m. virtual via Microsoft Teams*

Greens Committee

Recommend to the Mayor and Council the extent and location of the various golf activities and facilities of the city; and procedures and policy as to their operation, maintenance, fees and development. The Committee shall focus on financial oversight relating to the viability and accountability of the Golf Enterprise Fund, and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. *Meets 3rd Thursday of each month @ 3:30 p.m. - 900 S Randolph Way*

Parks and Connections Bond Oversight

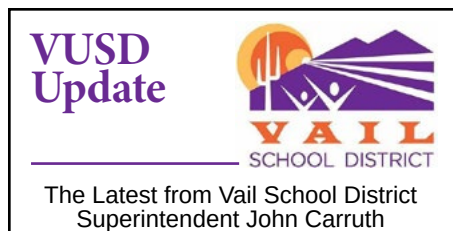
Commission monitors the progress of the projects funded by the 2018 Bond Program; and ensure the purposes for which the Bond Program was approved are carried out and the proceeds from the Bond Program are separately accounted for. In any case where a change from the allocation described in or through the pamphlet may be needed due to unforeseen circumstances or extraordinary considerations or the public interest and the matter is referred to the Committee by the Mayor and Council, to study the need for such change and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council to either approve or reject the change.

Meets: Quarterly basis: every 3 months on the 3rd Monday (Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct) @ 5:30 p.m. - 900 S Randolph Way

Planning Commission

Advise Mayor and Council, Planning and Development Services Department, and Housing and Community Development Department on the adoption of long-range plans, policies, specific plans, and standards that affect land use and development. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION for each agenda can be viewed on-line at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/planning-commission>
Meets: Monthly @ 6:00 p.m. Microsoft Teams (Hybrid Format)
"Nikki Lee" continued on page 4

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654



I am often asked, "So, what did you do during your summer break?"

The truth is that summer is one of the busiest times of the year for those of us who work year-round in our schools.

Our maintenance and grounds crews are hard at work ensuring that our schools look great for the coming year. One upgrade that is visible to everyone is the new parking lots at several of our schools.

Many of us are also busy hiring and processing high-quality new teachers and staff.

In Vail, we hold multiple job fairs where we screen applicants for the highest quality character. We look for educators who are excited about the values and guiding principles that unite us as a Vail community. We also look for educators who are excited about working side by side with parents, as it is our mission "to provide parents with safe and nurturing schools where their children can obtain a quality education."

Over the first two weeks of July, we welcomed more than 130 new teachers to the Calvin Baker Leadership Center for four days of New Teacher Induction (NTI). While at NTI, they learn the ins and outs of what quality instruction looks like in Vail.

I have the honor of spending an afternoon with our new teachers, talking to them about Vail's history and taking them on a bus tour throughout our community. I hope

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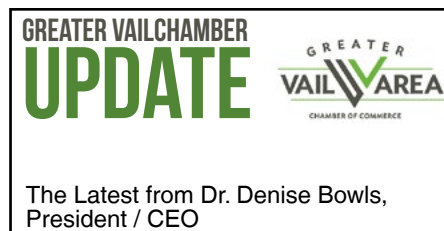
that this broader view of our community will help them better understand the families and community they serve. You can only truly love something that you know. I want them to love this place as much as I do, and I hope that they, too, will call Vail home.

I am excited to announce that Vail has filled all of its regular education teaching positions for this school year... a rarity in Arizona. Vail is a sought-after school district by families and professionals alike for the quality programs it offers and the consistent success of its students and staff spanning decades.

Speaking of student success, over the summer we also received test results from statewide assessments taken this past spring. While we are prohibited from publicly releasing those results until November, I am proud to confirm that Vail students again demonstrated growth and proficiency that places your community schools among the very best in Arizona.

Student achievement is made possible by a community that supports these programs with countless volunteer hours serving alongside our educators and with its continued authorization of override funding that supports critical programs and funds the educators who provide them. Each of you owns a piece of these student results. In June, the VUSD Governing Board called for an election to reauthorize the 12.5% override that funds high-quality, dedicated classes for fine arts, P.E., advanced courses, and additional teachers to help lower class sizes.

The Vail community has supported override funding since 1993. An override is an opportunity for local voters to increase local school funding through their property taxes. It can only be used for staff and salaries, not for building facilities. Proposition 423 (VUSD's Override Reauthorization) is not **"John Carruth" continued on page 16**



Leadership Doesn't Come With a Manual

Have you ever noticed that some people have the ability to make everyone around them feel calmer, more confident, and capable?



It isn't because they have the loudest voice in the room or the fanciest title on a business card.

It's because people trust them.

Leadership has very little to do with a position. Some of the best leaders never become CEOs. They are the teacher who stays after school to help a struggling student, the volunteer who quietly organizes a community event, the retiree who mentors a young entrepreneur, the neighbor who checks on an elderly friend, or the small business owner who knows every employee by name.

Leadership happens every day in our community.

But let's be honest, it's not always easy.

Sometimes leadership means making decisions that others don't understand. Sometimes it means having difficult conversations or holding people accountable. Sometimes it means putting the needs of others ahead of your own.

And sometimes, it's simply exhausting.

Many leaders spend sleepless nights wondering if they made the right decision, whether they could

have handled something differently, or why they're carrying the weight of everyone else's problems.

The truth is, leadership becomes overwhelming when we believe we have to carry it all ourselves.

Great leaders don't have all the answers. They ask questions. They listen. They build trust. They create opportunities for others to succeed. They understand that leadership isn't about being the hero, it's about helping others become one.

Our community is filled with people who have spent decades leading businesses, raising families, serving in the military, teaching children, coaching sports teams, building nonprofits, and volunteering countless hours to make Southern Arizona a better place.

Those experiences matter.

In fact, one of the greatest gifts retirees and longtime residents have to offer isn't just their time, it's their wisdom.

As our community continues to grow, there is an opportunity for every generation to learn from one another. Young professionals bring fresh ideas and new technology. Experienced leaders bring perspective, resilience, and lessons that can only come from years of overcoming challenges.

Imagine what our community could accomplish if we intentionally shared those experiences more often.

Leadership isn't about having the perfect plan. It's about showing up, serving others, and leaving things a little better than we found them.

Whether you lead a business, a neighborhood association, a classroom, a church group, a nonprofit, **"Dr. Denise Bowls" cont. on page 8**

August 2026



"Nikki Lee" continued from page 2
/ Mayor and Council Chambers;
255 W Alameda

Small Minority and Women Owned Business Commission (At Large)

Monitors effectiveness of the City's SMWBE Program; Monitors local practices and policies which may have discriminatory impact on minority and women-owned businesses; Facilitates communication between the City and small businesses; Evaluates City policies and regulations for their impact on small businesses; Sponsors and conducts educational forums, hearings and workshops; Recommends to Mayor and Council alternative measures or legislation; Requests from any City department information/assistance; Assumes and undertakes other tasks/duties at the discretion and express direction of Meets as Required

Wishing you a wonderful August and as always please do not hesitate to reach out to my team or me.

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

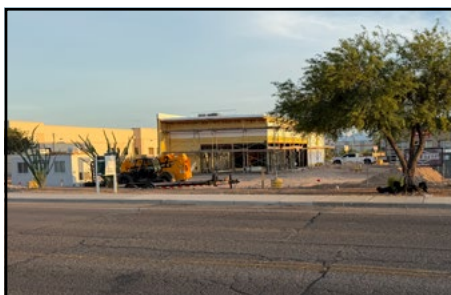


Sprouts on Old Vail Road is scheduled to open by first quarter of 2027.



Adjacent pads to Sprouts will house **Nothing Bundt Cakes**, **Ava Nails**, **JA Ramen** and **Scented Leaf**.

In another pad will be **Pinkberry**, **Mattress Firm** and **First Watch**.



Chipotle construction continues and is projected to open this year.

Construction has begun for the **Dollar General** at 14225 E. Old Spanish Trail. They plan to open by early 2027.

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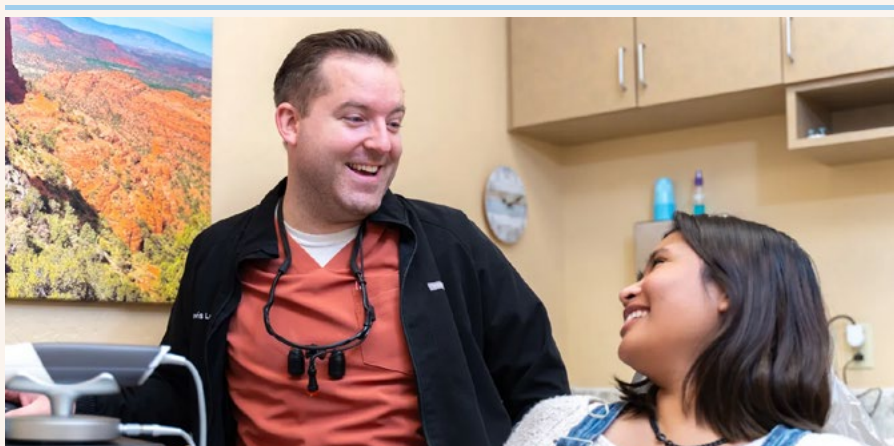
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School in the Box Car-an Exciting Start to the New School Year in 1922

Mrs. Blanch Stewart was teaching in the one-room adobe Vail School on the hill. The very first school was below the hill in the river valley in what is now called Rancho del Lago. Mrs. Stewart had so many pupils that a new room was needed right away. Mrs. Evie Schley, who owned Schley's Store in the little village of Vail, and Mrs. Davis, wife of the Southern Pacific Railroad Station Agent, were the Vail School Board. They reported to, and received assistance from, Mrs. Reynolds, the Pima County School Superintendent. Miss Kate Van Buskirk, a new teacher, was hired. Miss Van Buskirk had read about 'the school in the box car' that had been advertised in the papers and had asked for it! She was very excited when told that it would be sent to Vail and that she would not only be the one to teach students in 'the school in the box', but she would also enjoy a unique living space at one end! She could hardly wait for the school year to begin!

The Southern Pacific railroad put the final touches on 'the school in the box car' and prepared to transport it to Vail in time for the start of the 1922 school year. The inside was neatly sealed with sweet, fresh lumber, windows had been cut in the walls, one double door had been closed and the other narrowed to a suitable width before it was sent to the village of Vail.

About one-third of the south end had been partitioned off for living quarters for the teacher, Miss Van Buskirk—an outside door opened



VPS Vail School Boxcar Shop Building

to the south and an entry was left into the school room. Into this she moved her cot, bookcase, kitchen table and kerosene stove—one that did not smoke. Some may think that this was not much of a home, but Miss Van Buskirk loved it. She put pretty ruffled curtains at the windows, a striped cover on the couch, fancy oilcloth and a good student's lamp on the table, and some of her prettiest hand-painted china on the shelves. With a crate for the water pail and wash basin, and a single kitchen chair always pushed close under the table, and a tiny rocker on the little rug. The living quarters were cozy and had plenty of room to move about—if she was careful.

"VPS" continued on page 16



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Our Readers Sound Off!

Our Letters Policy

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

The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear," as H.P. Lovecraft points out.

We all encounter fear from time to time. It is a good thing when it alerts us to jump away from an oncoming car coming. But when fear becomes chronic, leaving us in a persistent state of anxiety, it becomes dangerous. Persons with chronic fear have been found to have a higher incidence of coronary heart disease, gastrointestinal problems, arthritis, migraine, allergies, thyroid disease and chronic respiratory disorders.

For any who struggle with chronic fear, Isaiah 41:10 declares, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

The leading promise here is God's promise to be with us in all things—no matter what we face. H.P. Lovecraft stresses, "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown."

When we run up against "unknowns" about our health, our finances, our work, or our relation-

Owner and Publisher

Lucretia Free
Lucretia@TheVailVoice.com

Editor

Editor@TheVailVoice.com

Photographer

Bel Coulson
photographybybel.com

Sales

Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654

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

ships, anxiety sets in. But through it all God promises to be with us, enabling us to face the "unknowns" with courage and hope.

The great challenge of life, then, is to train ourselves to discern God's nearness.

In the coming week, I invite you to conclude each day by asking yourself: "Where did I see evidence of God's presence this day?"

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

My name is Adam Carslin, and I work with a local organization called People Helping People Live. People Helping People Live is a mission-driven podcast founded on the belief that meaningful change begins with meaningful conversation. Through honest and intentional dialogue on the podcast, we bring together everyday people, business owners, nonprofits, and community leaders to share stories, better understand real community needs, and build genuine relationships. One conversation at a time, we are creating a growing network of people who believe in showing up for one another, giving back, and doing the work together. For us, impact does not begin with fundraising—it begins with connection.

As these conversations from the podcasts grow into relationships, and those relationships grow into community, meaningful action naturally follows. Our fundraising efforts and charitable initiatives are an extension of the trust, awareness, and momentum built through the podcast and the People Helping People network.

We would be truly grateful for the opportunity to be featured in your newspaper as a local community organization committed to serving others and making a positive difference. Through the support of our community, we have already completed several impactful initiatives, including raising more than \$3,800 to help send children to diabetic camp, providing a vehicle to a family in need, and supplying brand-new shoes for children in foster homes.

We are currently in Chapter 5: "For the Kids", a back-to-school initiative dedicated to providing high-quality backpacks for children in foster care. Many foster youth are required to transition quickly between homes and are often left to carry their belongings in garbage bags. A reliable, high-quality backpack offers more than school readiness—it provides dignity, stability, and a small but meaningful reminder that they are seen, supported, and valued during a difficult time.

Adam Carslin

Dear Editor,

I recall a while back that lots of people were ecstatic when the Tucson City Council rejected Annexation of Project Blue and their refusal to let them use reclaimed water. Well guess what, there is a very large water well rig on site, drilling away! I am talking capable of a 30"+ deep well! Pima County obviously sold them water rights as part of the deal and then granted the drilling permits, so the hullabaloo over reclaimed water was just a Red Herring. There should be some record of how large the well is going to be and how much it can

produce, it seems it has been kept pretty quiet like a lot of the details around that land sale. But it looks like for now their water is going to be coming from our aquifer!

On a similar note, Jeetu Patel (Cisco) has 85 more data centers planned for Arizona, they are currently buying "farm land" up in Marana and elsewhere. No big deal you think, except Farm land is sold with water rights! That's why there was a farm there! Water rights = water well(s) for cooling!

I heard a rumor that one data center can bring in ~ \$30/\$40 Million a month, the cost of the land and subsequent water wells is like a rounding error on the Profit line. And when you are talking that kind of coin you can see why they don't care about our drinking water, we can all move somewhere else - while they make their Billions.

Wake Up Arizona!

Robert Quick

Dear Editor,

How impressed we are with the front cover of the Vail 250 Voice edition! I am a Daughter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The fact that you featured Sierra Hanson's tribute to America front and center gave us hope in our country and the news publications. Well, at least your Vail Voice!! My husband and I both recognized the Patriotism you showed in your paper!

Thank you for paying tribute to America's 250th Anniversary. You are the best!!

Mary Van Dyke

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



The Moon, a Pond in France, and My Grandfather

As a child I always treasured a close relationship to my Dad's father, whom I loved to call Gram-pa (misspelling deliberate) Willie. Our closeness began during a visit in 1959 or 1960, when we both took his apartment building elevator to the roof. On that unforgettable evening we both looked through binoculars at the Sun, which had not quite set. There and then we enjoyed a large group of sunspots on the Sun. A few years later, when he was away from his apartment, I went again to that roof to look for Comet Ikeya-Seki, the Great Comet of 1965. I wrote earlier about my visit to him in early 1967, the night he decided to purchase for me the 15cm f/4 richest field reflector which to this day is a telescope I use every clear night, and which is named Minerva.

After he died in 1973, I very much wanted a painting hanging on the wall of my grandfather's living room. To this day I am not certain of who the artist was, although the signature was close to that of the French painter Charles-François



David: I copied this map of the Moon from a Sky & Telescope map that I purchased for 25 Canadian pennies in 1960. The idea was to spot all 300 numbered lunar craters and 26 lettered mountain ranges and other features numbered on that map. My version is reproduced here by permission.

Daubigny. I knew it as "Grampa's pond" since it reminded me of the pond at his cottage at Jarnac, near Ripon, Quebec, which I have visited hundreds of times and after which Jarnac Observatory is named. I also know that the artist painted it on a humid day, as the painting shows a hint of a distant mountain hidden in haze.

I brought the painting with me when I settled in southern Arizona in 1979. On a return drive years later I was able to add the antique frame in which the painting was housed. Not long ago I tried to read the artist's name as Charles-François Daubigny, though the signature does not quite match. However, the pond matches fairly closely the ponds and riverbanks in France that he loved to paint over and over again.

Daubigny apparently also loved painting the Moon, and although

"Skyward" continued on page 25



Heat Optimist Club Holds Respect for Law Program

On Thursday, June 18, the Heat Optimist Club honored U.S. Border Patrol Agent Ian Wittmer as this year's Respect for Law Award recipient. The Respect for Law program, one of Optimist International's long-standing community initiatives, helps strengthen relationships between young people and law enforcement while encouraging local civic pride.



Jim Pekny, Heat Optimist Club President and Ian Wittmer, Respect for Law Award recipient

Since the club was founded in May 1995, it has recognized local law enforcement officers and first responders; Ian is the first U.S. Border Patrol agent to receive this honor from the club. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Ian has served with the United States Border Patrol since January 2020 and continues to grow as a leader within the agency. We congratulate Ian and thank him for his dedication to serving and protecting the citizens of the United States.

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://heatopti->

mistclub.org for more information about our organization.

By Jim Pekny
President, Heat
Optimist Club



"Dr. Denise Bowls" continued from page 3

or simply your own family, someone is watching how you respond to challenges, how you treat people, and how you inspire others.

That's leadership.

And perhaps the greatest leaders are not remembered because of the titles they held, but because of the lives they touched.

Our community doesn't just need more leaders.

It needs more people willing to lead with kindness, humility, integrity, and a genuine desire to make a difference.

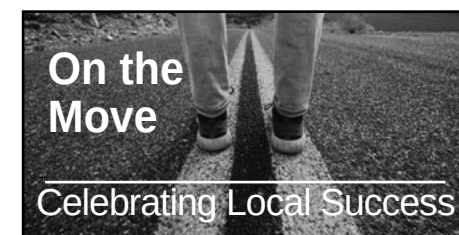
Because that's the kind of leadership that lasts long after the job title is gone.

Dr. Denise Bowls
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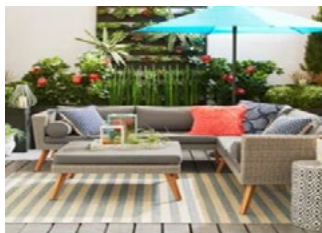
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(520) 490-0654



Lauren Fields, Dean's List at
Saint Mary's University.

Tucson's Nolan Radomsky and
Vail's Sydney Nieto, Dean's List
at The University of Wyoming

August Garden Guide



Get Decorating

Decorate your patio; add new chairs, throw pillows, a rug, and beautiful potted plants, paint a feature wall. String up some lights for evening ambiance and create your own oasis. Whatever you do, make the most of your outdoor space; after all we won't be shoveling snow in October!

How is your garden performing?

This year and past years have given us many challenges. The garden has seen many from soaring temperatures to extreme storms. Here are just a few areas to focus:

- **Drainage** – this is the perfect time to review your gardens drainage, always ensuring water drains away from your home.
- **Stake trees** that cannot stand tall on their own. Due to the extreme wind it may even be necessary to lighten the weight of some branches.
- **Check your entire irrigation system**, looking for leaks, broken pipes, watering schedule.
- **Check cacti, trees and shrubs** and remove soil or debris built up around the base.



Mel L. Shipley ACNP

College dorm decor



What to fertilize

- Potted annuals: once this month
- Annuals that have been in the ground for more than 2 weeks
- Containerized warm-season cacti and succulents: feed lightly once this month with a low-nitrogen fertilizer
- Ornamental grasses: feed once this month with a bloom formula fertilizer
- Warm-season lawn: fertilize according to your regular schedule this month
- Palms / Citrus trees: feed at the end of the month or in the beginning of September

Fertilize Trees & Shrubs 1st week of September



What to Plant in August

- **Cacti and succulents** - indoors or out – all year long!
- Heat-loving **shrubs & trees** - Be sure to provide them with enough water to get established
- Warm-season **annuals** like from seed or starts – pick the plants that make you smile.
- **Houseplants** for the patio, home or office. (Office or dorm room plants make people and happy people are more productive.
- **Vegetables & Herbs** - When temperatures cool down below 100 F, plant beets, bok choy, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, bunching onions, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, peppers, snap beans, Swiss chard, and tomatoes – Corn & Squash. Sow seed of herbs late in the month e.g. Chives
- **Pottery** – just add soil and plants. We can plant a custom arrangement for you!



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Remembering Summers Past

By Chuck Colbath

When I was 11, my family went on a summer vacation to Caratunk, Maine, not far from the Canadian border. Our elderly cousin Ned Porter had a picturesque private lodge and cabins on Pleasant Pond. Across the pond, the Appalachian Trail passes over Pleasant Pond Mountain, which is beautifully reflected in the water. The opposite side of the pond is unspoiled as it is owned by a paper company. The paper company's map in the lodge showed a large area of northern Maine as "UNEXPLORED"!

The four of us spent a week in a two room cottage. The kitchen had an old cast iron cook stove, and a late 1920's GE refrigerator with external cooling coils on top, the first GE electric refrigerator model. That old thing still worked fine; in fact it froze things we didn't want frozen! The smell of my dad cooking bacon and eggs on the

woodstove sure seemed special. The black metal sink had a hand pump that needed priming, but we had indoor water!

Fishing and swimming were a big part of the trip. We could fish off the dock at the boathouse, or take the boat out. Our cousin was quite a character. He had retired after a lifetime of working in New York City, and was an author and novelist. I guess he needed a quiet and beautiful spot to escape to. He also had been a minor league baseball player and we enjoyed listening to Red Sox games with him on a staticky radio while cousin Ned smoked his pipe and rocked. One of his favorite stories was how he outthit Babe Ruth! The whole truth is that the Babe was visiting northern Maine and participated briefly in a pick-up game that included Ned. In that game, he got on base while the Babe did not!

A rainy night could be challenging, slipping and sliding up to the outhouse in the dark. My sister, who



"Outhouse", Painting (Oil on Canvas): Carol Colbath

was 9 at the time, recently shared her memory of that outhouse with "I remember heading out toward it in the evening and Dad saying to me, 'Look out for the bears!'"

The tiny town of Caratunk had an equally tiny country store/post office. The proprietor, with his pronounced Maine twang, was Howie Mitchell. Howie had a great sense of humor. When an early-season vacationer "from away" mentioned how cold the water was and asked when the ice went out, Howie, straight faced, replied "It don't. It just sinks to the bottom." That city

fellow, after a brief pause, realized how he had been had!

That vacation trip is one of the very fond memories I have of long-ago summers.

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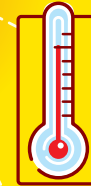
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When a child arrives at school hungry, learning becomes much harder. That's why Greater Vail Community ReSources' Meals to Grow program provides nutritious weekend meal bags to local students, helping ensure they return to school on Monday ready to learn, grow, and succeed.

Last school year, more than 550 children in Vail schools received a weekly meal bag filled with six meals, fruit, milk, and three snacks. As the need continues to grow in our community, we are expanding the program to serve 650 children each week in the 2026/2027 school year.



This August, we're asking our community to join our Feed Their Success campaign by sponsoring a weekend meal bag for children right here in Greater Vail.

Food insecurity doesn't end when the school bell rings on Friday. For many children, weekends can mean uncertainty about where

their next meal will come from. Studies consistently show that children with reliable access to nutritious food are better able to concentrate, attend school regularly, and perform academically. Every meal bag helps remove one more barrier to a child's success.

This program would not be possible without the generosity of our community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Angel Charity for Children, Tucson Electric Power, Waste Management, Albertson's Companies Foundation, St. Rita's Catholic Church, and Living Branch Church for investing in local children in 2026. Their support, combined with the generosity of individual donors like you, is helping children build healthier futures.

As our program grows, so does the need for community support. A donation of just \$40 provides weekend meals for one child for an entire month, while \$480 sponsors a child for an entire

year. Arizona taxpayers may also qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, allowing many donors to direct their tax dollars to feeding local children.

Together, we can help ensure no child in our community has to choose between hunger and learning. Visit www.resourcesvail.org/donate to make a gift and help Feed Their Success, because every meal is an investment in a brighter future.

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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Welcome Back to School.

Tina Evans

7th Grade Science at Desert Sky Middle School



For Tina Evans, joining the Vail School District as a teacher is more than a career move. It is an opportunity to give back to the community that helped shape her.

As a Vail School District graduate herself, Evans will

teach seventh grade science at Desert Sky Middle School this school year.

While she has previously taught elsewhere, returning to Vail feels like coming home.

Evans credits the experiences and educators she encountered in Vail with inspiring her own path into education.

“In a way, coming back to Vail to teach is a little like paying it forward,” she said. “I had Vail teachers who put their heart and care into my education, and now I get to do the same for Vail students.”

As she begins her career in Vail, Evans said she is looking forward to becoming part of the district’s close-knit culture.

“The community and support built here is immeasurable, and I am honored to be a part of it,” she said. “I have watched Vail grow so much over the course of my life, and yet VUSD still holds true to its original small-community values.”

Dr. Corinne Nawrocki

8th Grade Science at Old Vail Middle School



After spending years caring for patients as a family physician, Dr. Corinne Nawrocki is beginning a new chapter, but this time in the classroom.

Dr. Nawrocki, who recently retired from medicine and moved to the Vail area, discovered a passion for education after serving as a substitute teacher throughout the district last school year.

Dr. Nawrocki says as a substitute teacher, she woke up excited to start another day in the classroom.

“I loved it and wanted more,” Dr. Nawrocki said. “So I got myself certified, and here I am in my first classroom.”

Although she never expected middle school to become her calling, Dr. Nawrocki said her experience substituting across multiple Vail schools helped her discover a love for working with eighth graders and her love for the Vail School District.

“I am most excited about my students,” said Dr. Nawrocki. “If they understand they are lovable and capable they will go far. I will work tirelessly to ensure they know that they are lovable and capable -- and so am I! And, we’ll build our learning of science onto that foundation.”

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.. New Teacher Highlights

Michael Tate

Welding/Construction Teacher at Cienega High School



After more than 20 years in the construction industry, Michael Tate is beginning his first full year leading the Construction/Welding program at Cienega High School.

Tate joined the program last school year after volunteering in the classroom. When an opportunity opened to assist the program, he stepped in and eventually took over teaching duties before being selected to lead the program full time.

"I saw firsthand what CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs had done for my kids in this district," Tate said. "While volunteering, I learned how much I enjoyed teaching, so I decided to jump in head first."

Tate has worked as a framer, contractor, inspector, and builder, including helping construct Sycamore Elementary School. Most recently, he taught volunteers with Habitat for Humanity Tucson how to repair and build homes.

"I want students to know the trades are a viable and respectable career," Tate said. "I'm excited to bring industry certifications to the program so students can graduate with credentials that give them a head start in their careers."

This year, the program will focus on expanding industry certifications and creating new work-based learning opportunities.

Kimberly Salazar Machiche

5th Grade at Acacia Elementary School



Kimberly Salazar Machiche is beginning a new chapter as a fifth grade teacher at Acacia Elementary School after relocating from Douglas to join the Vail School District.

Encouraged by family members who had already made the move and after attending a Vail job fair with her sister, Salazar said Vail quickly felt like home.

"Vail reminds me of Douglas in many ways," she said. "Even though it is not a small town, it has the feel of one, which I love."

Teaching has always been part of Salazar's life. Coming from a family of educators, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and later a master's degree in reading from Grand Canyon University before teaching in Douglas.

As she begins her first year at Acacia, she is excited to build new relationships with students and colleagues.

"I found my 'why' again," she said. "I felt accepted, encouraged and ready. I am truly thankful for the opportunity Vail has given me and for helping me find my purpose again."



"VPS" continued from page 6

The other part of the box car was the school room. A new desk had been provided for the teacher: seven double desks were pushed against the wall on one side and seven single desks on the other side of the room, making provision for 21 pupils in grades second to seventh grades in the little 'school in the box car'. The other teacher, Mrs. Stewart, taught over 40 students in her first-grade class!

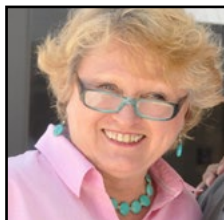
One group of children came in by bus from Rita Station and Esmond Station. Two boys rode horseback from the Empire Mountains to the south. When sharing her memories years later Miss Van Buskirk remembered that one of these—"a nice-looking lad—had never had shoes on his feet." Several children, all from the same family, came from the Rincon Valley to the Vail school. She recalled that "most of the children in the Rincon Valley were Mexicans, though there were a number of Americans

in the Rincon Valley group." She noted that among them was the grandson of William Jennings Bryan.

Miss Van Buskirk noted that, "We all worked hard. You should have heard the second-grade pupils trying to catch up with the third grade in reading. There were a few cases requiring discipline. Most of them were caused by the children in each school bothering the other building for most of them never attended a two-room school before and their curiosity never ceased."

...to be continued

J.J. Lamb is President & CEO of Vail Preservation Society. A U of A graduate, her family has lived in Vail since 1971. She was named an Arizona Culturekeeper in 2011 and an Arizona Friend of the Humanities in 2020.



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"John Carruth" cont. from page 3

about new programs or teachers. Nor is it a new tax. It is about maintaining the quality programs in Vail that have contributed to the success of children in our community for decades.

I'm continually grateful for a community that enables our students to be taught and trained by the remarkable educators VUSD enjoys. Our teachers love to inspire the next generation. And they love partnering with you, as parents and community members, in a place where "Education Is a Community Effort."

John Carruth began his service to Vail in 1995. He has held many roles since and is deeply honored to now serve as Superintendent. He and his wife live in Vail and are the proud parents of two Vail graduates.

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Climate
Review

A Look Back

March – May and Full Spring Climate Report

For the individual Spring months and the entire Spring season, please see the data below. All temperature data is from the Tucson Airport.

March was incredibly warm, with four 100+ degree days. No previous March (since data started in the 1880s) had 100-degree tempera-

tures. This year, we had four. April 2026 had zero and May only had two. Wow.

At the time of this writing, in late July, the monsoon is in full swing. I will report on that in the fall. So far, some areas have done very well, while others have not.

John Simpson has lived in Tucson for 38 years and Vail for 22. John has a master's degree in Atmospheric Physics from the U of A. He loves exploring the outdoors with his family and photographing the outdoors.



March 2026 Stats	Month	Average	Difference	Historical Ranking
Average High Temperature	88.1	75.8	+12.3	Warmest Ever
Average Low Temperature	56.0	48.0	+8.0	Warmest Ever
Average Temperature	72.1	61.9	+10.2	Warmest Ever
My Home Rainfall (Central Del Lago, Vail)	0.18"	0.59"	-0.41"	4 th Driest (Tied) – Past 15 yrs
Tucson Airport Rainfall (Inches)	0.27"	0.56"	-0.29"	40 th Driest (Tied)
April 2026 Stats	Month	Average	Difference	Historical Ranking
Average High Temperature	85.2	82.9	+2.3	23 rd Warmest
Average Low Temperature	58.6	53.3	+5.3	Warmest Ever
Average Temperature	71.9	68.1	+3.8	3 rd Warmest (Tied)
My Home Rainfall (Central Del Lago, Vail)	0.01"	0.20"	-0.19"	5 th Driest – Past 15 yrs
Tucson Airport Rainfall (Inches)	Trace	0.24"	-0.24"	15 th Driest (Tied)
May 2026 Stats	Month	Average	Difference	Historical Ranking
Average High Temperature	91.3	91.8	-0.5	55 th Warmest (Tied)
Average Low Temperature	63.1	61.8	+1.3	11 th Warmest
Average Temperature	77.2	76.8	+0.4	25 th Warmest (Tied)
My Home Rainfall (Central Del Lago, Vail)	0.18"	0.05"	+0.13"	2 nd Wettest – Past 16 yrs
Tucson Airport Rainfall (Inches)	0.40"	0.20"	+0.20"	29 th Wettest
Full Spring Stats (March-May)	Month	Average	Difference	Historical Ranking
Average High Temperature	88.2	83.5	+4.7	2 nd Warmest
Average Low Temperature	59.2	54.3	+4.9	Warmest Ever
Average Temperature	73.7	68.9	+4.8	Warmest Ever
My Home (Central Del Lago, Vail)	0.37	0.85	-0.48"	5 th Driest – Past 15 yrs
Tucson Airport Rainfall (Inches)	0.67"	1.00"	-0.33"	52 nd Driest

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After a summer monsoon, many Vail homeowners notice swarms of winged insects and wonder: Are they ants or termites? While they look similar, the difference is important. Flying ants are usually a nuisance, while termite swarms can signal a destructive infestation.

Three Ways to Tell Them Apart:

1. Waist – Flying ants have a narrow, pinched waist. Termites have a broad, straight body with no defined waist.
2. Antennae – Flying ants have bent, or "elbowed," antennae. Termites have straight antennae.
3. Wings – Flying ants have two pairs of wings, with the front pair longer than the back. Termites

have two pairs of equal-length wings that extend well beyond their body.

If you spot a swarm, don't ignore it. While flying ants rarely threaten your home, termite swarms indicate a mature colony may be nearby. An inspection by a licensed professional can determine what you're dealing with and whether treatment is needed.

For help identifying flying ants, termites—or any other pest—call Bill's Home Service at (520) 346-4564 or visit BillsHomeService.com.



Singers! The Vail Choral Welcomes You to the Fall 2026 Season!

The Vail Choral is celebrating 15 years of sharing music with our community, and we welcome you to be part of this special anniversary season. We are excited to invite new and returning singers to join us! Together, we'll revisit favorite selections from seasons past, featuring music from Broadway, the movies, spirituals, traditional choral repertoire, classical masterworks, and a touch of jazz. Former directors will return to join in the celebration, making this a memorable season honoring our rich musical history.

The Vail Choral, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the Greater Vail Area's inter-generational, non-auditioned community chorus. Since its founding in 2011, the Choral has delighted Vail-area audiences with free Spring and Fall concerts each year. We warmly welcome anyone who enjoys singing in four-part harmony to join the Choral as we celebrate 15 years of music, friendship, and community. We are always looking to expand our tenor and bass sections in particular, and enjoy welcoming both male and female tenors!

The Fall 2026 season will begin on August 18th at Cienega High School, 12775 East Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Room 218, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by first rehearsal. Weekly rehearsals will continue every Tuesday evening, 6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m., from

"Vail Choral"
continued on page 25

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Events

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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.

Mon, Aug. 3, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Elizabeth Schauer, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the U of A School of Music, "Musica Femina: Celebrating the Music of Women Composers." Dr. Schauer will provide a brief introduction to ten outstanding female composers and share sample recordings of their engaging works.

Beginning August 5

Enrollment begins for 2026-2027 Season at Tucson Girls Chorus, Eastside Location. Ladybugs Choir (grades 2-3), Hummingbirds Choir (grades 4-5). Scholarships available. tucson-girlschorus.org, (520) 577-6064

Fri, Aug. 7, Doors Open 6:30 p.m.

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Concert: The Paladins with special guest Alex Flores plus The Xcelerators featuring Ken Saydak. Tickets: \$25 advance for KXCI Members, \$30 advance general, \$35 door. Limited Individual Reserved Seating: \$75. Limited Reserved High-Tops for 4 people: \$320.

Fri, Aug. 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.

Tues, Aug. 11, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Dr. Julie Armstrong, President, Asian Medicine Acupuncturists of Arizona, "A Journey to Health Through Asian Medicine." Dr. Armstrong will discuss Asian medical practices and how their integration of natural world experiences and human experiences influence an individual's health.

Sat. Aug 15 9:30 - 5:30 pm.

Covena Pointe at Rocking K Grand Opening

Mon, Aug. 17, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Tues, Aug. 18, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Community Meeting - SEAC of Pima County. Topic: Development in South East Pima County. Esmond Station - Anne Gibson Public Library Everyone Welcome or view live at: facebook.com/thevailvoice/ Additional Information: info@seacpimacounty.org

Tuesdays, Aug. 18, 25 & Sept. 1, 8, 6:45 -8:45 p.m. The Vail Chorale weekly rehearsal at Cienega High School, 12775 East Mary Ann Cleve-

land Way, Room 218. For more information, visit www.thevailchorale.org or contact thevailchorale@gmail.com.

Fri, Aug. 21, 11:30 a.m.

ASA Concert: Tucson-based duo "Rosewood & Ivory" pairs Tucson Symphony principal percussionist Trevor Barroero and pianist/vocalist Kathryn Lieppman, performing contemporary works for marimba and piano, a marimba & voice duet, and a novelty ragtime medley of xylophone tunes re-imagined for marimba and piano.

Mon, Aug. 24, 3 p.m.

ASA*: Lecture by Allison Kries: Co-Director, La Tierra del Jaguar, "Regenerating Nature & Community: The Future of Conservation in Sonora." The speaker shares the organization's vision of community-centered conservation, focusing on regenerative practices and empowering rural communities to support wildlife.

Fri, Aug. 28, 11:30 a.m.

ASA Concert: Percussionist Homero Ceron returns to the ASA for a solo program, "All Alone by the Vibraphone," playing an eclectic program of music by Bach, Schubert, Debussy, Richard Rodgers, Victor Young and others, including some originals.

Thurs, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.

ASA Concert: The University of Arizona's newest faculty wind quintet, the Arizona Reed Quintet, features Sara Fraker (oboe), Jackie Glazier (clarinet), Edward Goodman (saxophone), Daniel Becker (bass clarinet) and Marissa Olegario (bassoon), reprising their inaugural program featuring music by Renaissance master Josquin des Prez and contemporary innovators Becky Turro, Octavio Vazquez and Jeff Scott.

Fri, Sept. 11, 18 & 25 at 9 a.m.

Senior Cheer Camp! Enjoy low-impact aerobic classes with pom-poms. Active aging individuals aged 55 and above. 14893 E Colossal Cave Rd.

Beginning September 14, 2nd and 4th Monday, PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) meet in Academy Village. For more information go to palgroup.org or call 520-258-9583

Sat, Sept. 19 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

5th Annual Constitution Day Celebration with First Annual Founders Costume Contest & Parade. Cienega High School. Free Admission. Email: csladypatriots@gmail.com | text: 52-661-6431

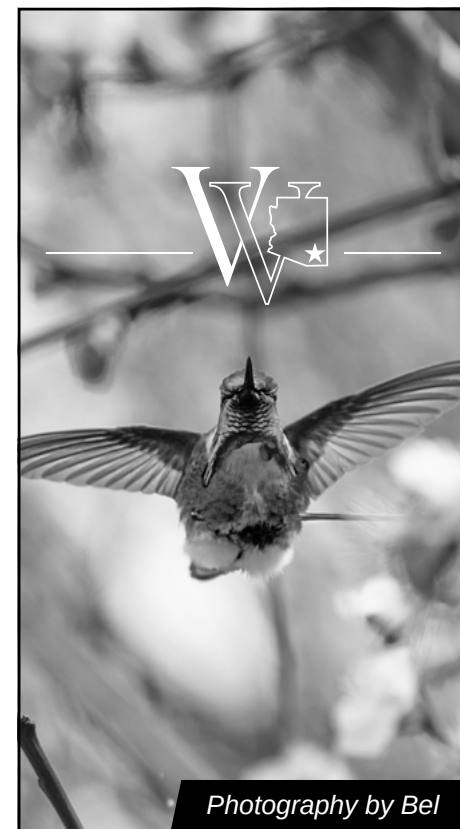
*ASA. The Arizona Senior Academy

**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.



Photography by Bel

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HEALTH SERVICES

Understanding Blocks to Success: Healing From Within Series @ Vail Community Center, 13105 E. Colossal Cave Rd. Vail, AZ 85641. Aug.12 from 5-6:30 p.m. Cost: Free. By Dr. Dennis Ondrejka. *Learn what can block your future success, and why you have failures in healthy change. Learn two tools to stop any anger you have or how to make conflict disappear.* www.dennisondrejka.com

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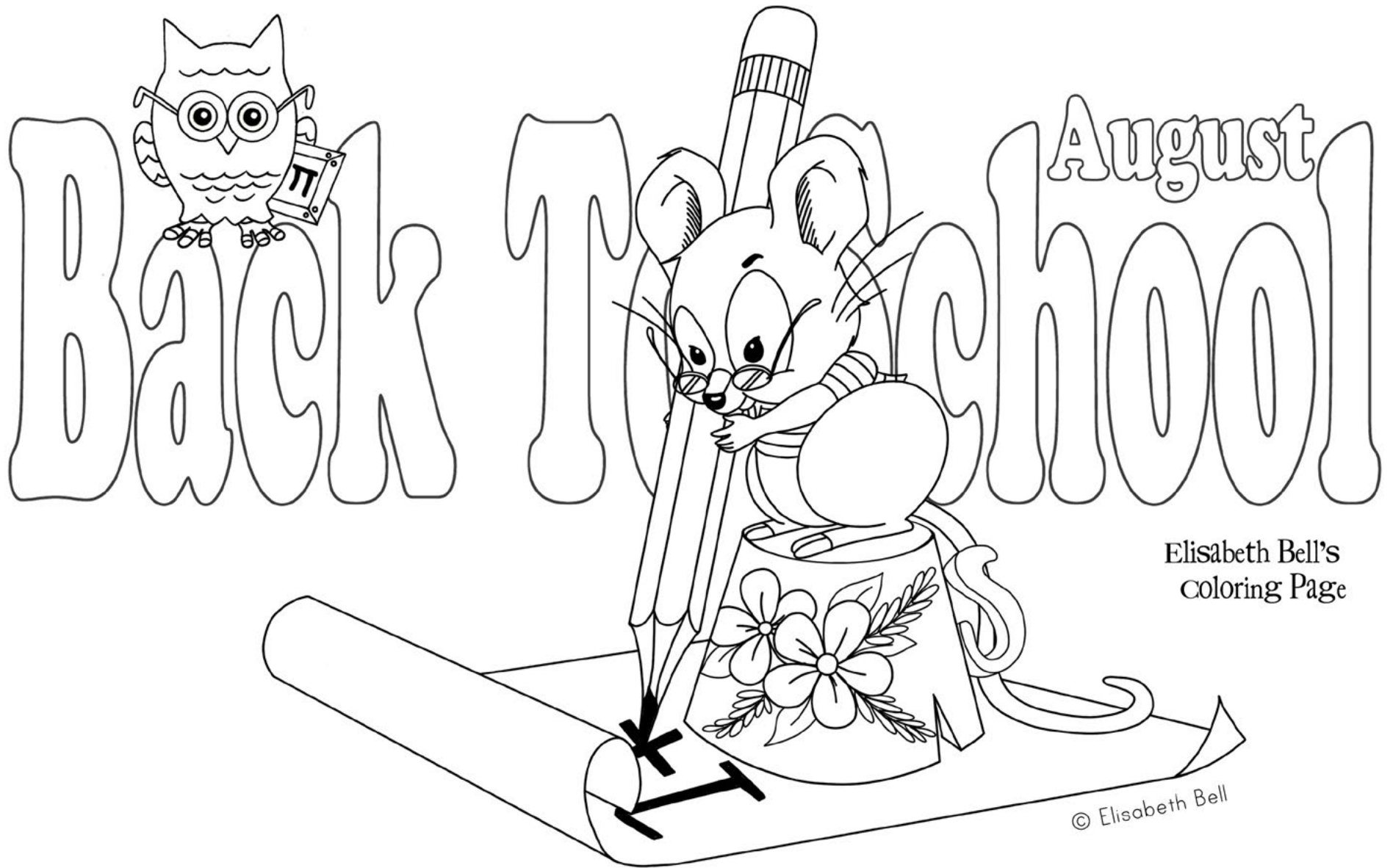
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provided by the Artist.

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!

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

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

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

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

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

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Word Search

Movies: Science Fiction

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

ALIEN	FANTASTIC VOYAGE	ROBOCOP	TERMINATOR
BLADE RUNNER	FLASH GORDON	SCANNERS	THE ABYSS
BODY SNATCHERS	FLATLINERS	SHIVERS	THE FLY
BRAZIL	FORBIDDEN PLANET	SILENT RUNNING	THE MATRIX
COCOON	FRANKENSTEIN	SOLARIS	THEY LIVE
CONTACT	GATTACA	SOYLENT GREEN	TOTAL RECALL
CUBE	INDEPENDENCE DAY	SPIDER-MAN	TRANCERS
DARK CITY	JURASSIC PARK	STAR WARS	TRON
DEEP IMPACT	LOGAN'S RUN	STARGATE	VIDEODROME
DUNE	MAD MAX	STARMAN	WESTWORLD
EQUILIBRIUM	METROPOLIS	STARSHIP TROOPERS	

Why Are So Many People Talking About EMDR?

EMDR is a research-supported therapy helping people heal from trauma, anxiety, and distressing life experiences.

Many people find that difficult experiences don't simply fade with time. Trauma, anxiety, grief, or overwhelming life events can continue to affect emotions, relationships, sleep, and daily life long after they occur.

That's one reason Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) has received growing attention. Although EMDR has been used by trained therapists for decades, more people are discovering this evidence-based therapy as an effective way to help the brain process distressing memories so they no longer carry the same emotional weight.

EMDR has been shown to help individuals experiencing trauma, PTSD, anxiety, panic, grief, phobias, and other distressing life experiences. Every person's journey is different, so treatment is individualized and provided only after a careful clinical assessment.

Elizabeth DeVries, LPC, provides EMDR therapy at Mindful Vision Counseling, helping adolescents and adults process trauma, anxiety, and other distressing life experiences using evidence-based care.



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Want to help our teachers bring great ideas to life? Scan the QR code to support the Vail School District Foundation and help fund classroom grants that inspire learning, creativity, and student success. Every gift makes a difference!



"Vail Choral" continued from page 20

August 25th through November 10th. The Fall 2026 concerts are scheduled for Saturday November 14th and Sunday November 15th at 3:00 p.m. Invite your family and friends!

For registration information or for any questions, visit us online at www.thevailchorale.org or contact thevailchorale@gmail.com. We look forward to singing with you!

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"Skyward" continued from page 8

Grampa's painting does not show it, the artist has many evening pond paintings that do. To add to his selenographic love, I offer a lunar map I created in 1964 (I was 16 then) out of a Sky & Telescope lunar map that included numbered craters and lettered mountain ranges. My completion of the map on July 26, 1964, by the way, led a few weeks later to amateur astronomer David Zackon's lending me his 8-inch f/7 reflector (which I named Pegasus). Dad later purchased the telescope from him, and on 11 October 1987 I discovered my third comet, C/1987 T1, with it.

I will probably never know if Daubigny was the artist who painted the pond, or if it was another artist with a similar style. But I do know that there is a connection between me and the artist in that we both thoroughly enjoy the Moon. He loved painting it, just as I relish the tens of thousands of happy guises I have caught over more than half a century of moongazing. By far the easiest thing in the sky to find with almost any telescope, the Moon never disappoints. Just as it is a place on which twelve people have hiked and countless spacecraft have explored, it thoroughly rewards anyone who takes a few moments to take a deep breath, open an eye, and appreciate the splendor of the Moon's soft, commanding, and enchanted luster.

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 Update August 2026

The South East Area Council of Pima County aka SEAC of Pima County Expansion and Maintenance of Infrastructure Committee includes development, public safety, transportation, and environmental factors affecting south east Pima County. Following find a summary of each sub-committee.

Development: As new developments (residential and business) become known to the committee, information concerning the developments is forwarded to the community via Facebook, email, the website and the SEAC of Pima County website. Additionally topics that may have impact on the community are presented at community meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of the month and may be attended in person or live at <https://www.facebook.com/the-vailvoice/>

Transportation: The transportation committee keeps abreast of transportation via bike, walking paths, public methods and personal autos and brings the information forward to the community. SEAC works with residents to assist in resolving concerns. Contact infor@seacpimacounty.org for assistance.

Public Safety: Public safety affects residents through our first responders in law enforcement, emergency medical and fire services. The services provided by these organizations relate to quality of life. SEAC works to communicate with members of safety entities and the community.

Environmental Resources: Issue

affecting water, air, mining, wastewater, wild life crossings/habitat and other natural resources affecting our ability to live in the desert are considered by this sub-committee.

Interested in working on any of these topics? Complete an application at www.seacpimacounty.org/. SEAC is a nonpartisan group providing opportunities for residents to exchange ideas and work for quality of life in south east Pima County.

By Carol A. Wagner Williams
info@seacpimacounty.org



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What Parents Should Look for in a Teen’s First Checking Account

A first checking account is a milestone for teens and a valuable teaching opportunity for parents. It gives young people a place to manage a paycheck, make everyday purchases and begin learning what financial independence looks like.

The account matters, but so does the guidance that comes with it. Parents can use this step to give teens room to make decisions while staying close enough to help when questions come up.

Start With an Account That Keeps Things Simple

A teen’s first account should be easy to understand and affordable to maintain. Before opening one, review monthly fees, minimum balance requirements, ATM access and overdraft policies.

Hughes Federal Credit Union’s Free Checking has no monthly maintenance fee or minimum balance requirement. It also includes a Visa® debit card and access to mobile banking and money-management tools, giving young members practical ways to keep an eye on their money as they learn.

During the first few months, sit down together and review the account. Show your teen how to check a balance, identify pending transactions and understand why the amount displayed may not include every restaurant tip, subscription or automatic payment.

Turn Digital Tools Into Teachable Moments

Purchase notifications and low-balance alerts can make everyday spending easier to understand. Rather than waiting until the end of the month, families can talk about choices while they are still fresh.

Ask whether a purchase was planned and what expenses are coming up. Over time, teens can take greater ownership of these check-ins and begin anticipating what their money needs to cover.

Mobile banking also gives them experience with tasks they will eventually manage alone, such as depositing checks, transferring money and reviewing account activity.

Talk About Debit Card Safety

A first debit card often feels like freedom, but it comes with responsibility. Teens should know how to protect their PIN and password, recognize suspicious messages and avoid sharing verification codes.

Parents should also show them what to do if the card is lost or an unfamiliar purchase appears. Knowing how to respond can help a teen feel more confident and keep a small issue from becoming a bigger one.

Connect Checking With Saving

Checking should not be taught in isolation. Encourage your teen to move part of each paycheck, allowance or cash gift into savings before deciding what to spend.

Hughes offers youth memberships that can include checking and savings, making it easier to separate everyday spending from longer-term goals. Whether your teen is saving for a car, college expenses or concert tickets, the goal itself matters less than building the habit.

Leave Room for Small Mistakes

Parents may be tempted to prevent every poor decision, but a few low-stakes mistakes can be effective teachers. Spending too much on takeout and having to wait until payday is frustrating, but

it makes budgeting feel real.

The right first checking account gives teens a safe place to practice. Hughes can help families get started with straightforward checking and savings options, along with tools young members can continue using as their confidence grows. Learn more at HughesFCU.org.



Word Search

Solved

Hidden movie: THE ADVENTURES OF BUCKAROO BANZAI ACROSS THE EIGHTH DIMENSION

MOVIES: Science Fiction

ALien, BLADE RUNNER, BODY SNATCHERS, BRAZIL, COCOON, CONTACT, CUBE, DARK CITY, DEEP IMPACT, DUNE, EQUILIBRIUM, FANTASTIC VOYAGE, FLASH GORDON, FLATLINERS, FORBIDDEN PLANET, FRANKENSTEIN, GATTACA, INDEPENDENCE DAY, JURASSIC PARK, LOGAN'S RUN, MAD MAX, METROPOLIS, ROBOCOP, SCANNERS, SHIVERS, SILENT RUNNING, SOLARIS, SOLENT GREEN, SPIDER-MAN, STAR WARS, STARMAN, STARGATE, STARSHIP TROOPERS, TERMINATOR, THE ABYSS, THE FLY, THE MATRIX, THEY LIVE, TOTAL RECALL, TRANSERS, TRON, VIDEOGAMES, WESTWORLD

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