

Setpember Events!
9/7 - *Labor Day*
9/17 - *Constitution Day*

See Events on pg. 21!

Word Search on Page **24**
Answer Key: Pg. 27

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Del Lago Golf Course Closed

The golf course's last day of operation was Sunday, August 9th. Things were also beginning to look a little different on the fairway. The grass was drying and turning stiff and brown. The Pro Shop also closed. The restaurant should be closed as you read this, by August 31. The course closing impacted not only residents who live at Del Lago, but also the Cienega High School golf team who no longer have a local place to practice. and organizations like Resources Vail who were scheduled to have a fundraiser there later this year. Callie Tippett, Executive Director of Resources said she found out through an email from management, "As a courtesy Ken, at the golf course, sent an email saying he just found out as well and we wanted you to be one of the first to know." Tippett added the course's closing has had an effect on residents on residents in need who are served by the non-profit she heads up.

Residents at Del Lago with homes on the golf course will be most directly affected. But for some, the closing wasn't a total surprise. Kevin McDermott said, "In the last four years we have seen a decline in the landscaping maintenance of the greens and the fairways, and that was a sign we were in trouble." Stuart Katz added,



Del Lago Golf Course, Hacienda del Lago Bar & Grill

"Headline Story" cont. on page 3



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PIMA COUNTY District 4 Update

The Latest from Pima County District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy



Pima County Administration recently presented to the Board of Supervisors its first Wildfire Mitigation Plan annual report, a plan developed in response to your expressed concerns, and a summary of the key points follows.

During the recently completed Fiscal Year 2026, the County helped to broaden community outreach, expanded invasive species treatment, started to refine mapping tools, and enhanced multi-agency coordination. These achievements illustrate growing capacity, stronger partnerships, and a more unified approach to wildfire preparedness.

Department of Transportation crews contributed to mitigation by managing vegetation along roadway corridors completing 134 miles of roadside invasive species treatment, including along roadways in the Greater Vail area. This work reduced ignition risks and supported critical road infrastructure.

The County piloted two community-oriented mitigation programs focused on reducing hazardous fuels around homes in high-risk areas in District 4. The inaugural Community Chipping program in Summerhaven, offered in December and again in May, helped residents safely dispose of vegetation removed from the immediate five-foot defensible space zone around homes. To further support fuel reduction work, roll-off dumpsters were deployed to communities in Green Valley, providing residents with accessible options for disposing of cleared brush.

We look forward to working with our Greater Vail and Corona de Tucson communities to expand these mitigation programs, including Firewise USA neighborhood certification, in the Southeast Region.

Pima County is also helping with response readiness by supporting access to shared tools and equipment for fire agencies through the Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Intergovernmental agreements are being drafted for a wildland equipment cache trailer that supplies critical tools, and the opportunity to pilot regional drone capabilities, and personal protective equipment to smaller rural districts with limited resources. This will expand operational capacity across jurisdictions to respond safely and effectively during wildfire incidents.

Financial investment mirrored the plan's operational growth, as expenditures totaled approximately $425,000. Funding distribution remained balanced across priority goals and has set a strong foundation for continued wildfire resilience efforts in the year ahead.

The County is positioned to deepen its efforts, scale effective programs, and continue building long-term resilience across all areas of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response. Our Southeast Region is a direct beneficiary of these efforts, and we welcome your comments as your District 4 team works to continuously improve the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

Pima County Supervisor
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Tucson, AZ 85701
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VUSD Update

VAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Latest from Vail School District Superintendent John Carruth



I began my career in Vail in the mid-90s, but I didn't become a Vail resident until our eldest daughter, now in her late 20's, approached kindergarten age. We lived in town in a two bedroom home in Winterhaven. We loved our little home and our neighbors. We loved the Christmas traditions of the neighborhood.

But as the reality about what school we wanted our children to attend set in, we wrestled with where we wanted to raise our family. In the end, the decision was easy.

We moved to Vail and bought a home on the newly opened Del Lago golf course. We have loved living here and have watched our home value steadily increase over the years. Now, my wife and I, like many of you, face uncertainty of what the loss of our golf course means for our home value.

Businesses come and go. The golf course was in business for roughly 25 years… a pretty good run. What happens next there will surely impact our community.

As someone who has invested more than 30 years with VUSD, I can tell you that we seek to be much more than a business; we seek to ensure that the district remains a cornerstone on which the community can depend. Check just about any real estate listing in Vail. You'll see something along the lines of, "located in the award winning Vail School District." We do not take that responsibility to Vail's homeowners lightly, as we depend on them to remain strong.

For our family, the decision to move to Vail profoundly impacted our now adult children. They are much better people today than what my wife and I could have offered them on our own because of the experiences they had growing up in Vail and attending Vail schools.

We have many high quality adults utilizing the best instructional strategies, who provide some of the best programs across the state. But, the secret ingredient in our award winning sauce has always been our community. Simply put, strong communities = strong schools, and strong schools = strong communities. The strength of Vail is the two-way, mutual partnership that enables both the community and the schools to thrive… together.

VUSD, by any measure, is among the top performers in the state. Recently, I have asked community groups to ask their favorite AI platform what the top performing school districts are in Arizona. By any metric Vail usually sits among the top three. We all own a piece of that success and providing funding through an override is just one of many ways a community can support their local school district.

As a point of comparison, the total voter-approved budget overrides range from 19.0% to 12.5% across the Tucson region and are as follows: Catalina Foothills, 19.0%; Sahuarita, 16.2%; Marana, Tanque Verde and Tucson, 15.0%; Sunnyside, 14.9%; Amphitheater, 13.5%; Flowing Wells, 13.0%; and Vail, 12.5%.

I am grateful to work and live in a community that continually chooses to support children; a place that chooses to live our motto: "Where Education Is a Community Effort". That is a stable cornerstone worth building upon.

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.

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

GREATER VAILCHAMBER UPDATE

The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls, President / CEO

More Than a Transaction: The Value of Great Vendor Relationships



Whether you're a homeowner hiring a contractor, a nonprofit planning a fundraiser, a small business purchasing supplies, or an HOA maintaining a neighborhood, we all rely on vendors. Every day, we make decisions about who to trust with our time, money, and projects.

While price is often the first consideration, the true value of a vendor goes far beyond the lowest bid.

The best vendors become trusted partners. They communicate clearly, stand behind their work, solve problems, and help us make informed decisions. They understand that their success is tied to the success of the people and organizations they serve.

Choosing local vendors also creates a ripple effect throughout our community. Local businesses hire local employees, support schools and youth programs, sponsor community events, and contribute to charitable organizations. When we invest in businesses that invest in our community, everyone benefits.

A strong vendor relationship starts with communication. Don't be afraid to ask questions, share your goals, or seek recommendations. Experienced vendors often bring valuable insight from working with many customers and can suggest ideas that save time, money, or frustration.
It's also important to recognize and support vendors who consistently provide outstanding service. A positive online review, a referral to a friend, or a simple thank-you can make a meaningful difference to a local business. Those small gestures help build trust and strengthen the relationships that make our community thrive.

Before hiring someone, take a few moments to do your homework. Read reviews, ask for references, verify licenses when appropriate, and look for businesses that are active in the community. A company's reputation is built not only on the services it provides but also on how it treats its customers and neighbors.

At the Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce, we believe strong communities are built through strong relationships. Every connection between residents, businesses, nonprofits, and service providers helps create a more vibrant and resilient community.

The next time you need a product or service, don't ask only, "Who has the lowest price?" Instead, ask, "Who will deliver the greatest value, earn my trust, and strengthen our community?"

When we choose vendors who care about quality, integrity, and giving back, we're not just making a purchase; we're investing in the future of the place we all call home.

Dr. Denise Bowls
President/CEO

CONSTRUCTION ZONE BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY



Rincon Valley Fire District officially broke ground on our their new Station 293 on the corner of Colossal Cave Rd and Via Rancho Del Lago.



Left to right: John Price Architect, Lora Gruner board member, Chief Jim Tucker, Jennifer Spears board chairperson, Allen Yalen Asst. Chief, Glen Rodriguez board member, Kevin McKinley board clerk, Chris Klassen board member

Chrissy's Cheesecakes opened their own food trailer and is hitting to road. More details to follow. More updates coming soon!





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

"Construction Zone" cont. on pg 20

"Headline Story" cont. from page 1

"There is a sign at Colossal Cave Road and Mary Ann Cleveland that says Rancho Del Lago, A Golf Course Community. That won't be true if you don't even have a golf course." Christine Lancia-Miller said one of the reasons her family purchased where they did was because of the course, "but I also think of the greater community; who is actually invested in the golf course itself." Katz summed up everyone's feeling by saying "It's a little unnerving for a lot of folks...not knowing what's going to happen and we hope someone will buy it and take good care of it and it can be a beautiful golf course again. That's my hope."

As of this writing at least one meeting has been held by the greater Del Lago Homeowners Association. So far, the plan is to form a committee to look more deeply at the issue and interact closely with the owners to consider what options, if any, there are.

And Callie Tippett reports that Resources Vail did find another location for their event in October. It will be held at 49er Golf Course on Speedway. More information to follow.

In the meantime, the golf course chapter at Del Lago is closed, at least for now, leaving residents, organizations and a community filled with uncertainty and unanswered questions.

By Lucretia Free
Founder and Publisher
The Vail Voice
520.490.0654

VAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Discovering Vail's History

The Creek Remembers

Cienega Creek as we know it today is not a timeless landscape. It is a product of people's choices—layered, contested, and cumulative—made over the last century and a half.

In 1880, the creek was abundant. That year, John O. Dunbar opened a stage stop, along its banks, and recorded what he saw. "It was a lovely spot in those days, full of birds, and a grassy meadow with grand old cottonwood trees around the house… after a week in Tucson in February 1880, it seemed like a Garden of Eden." Flocks of red and yellow shouldered blackbirds filled the meadow. Golden finches flashed through the cottonwoods. Water flowed, quietly shaping life. But that tranquility would not last.

By April of the same year, the Southern Pacific Railroad (SPRR) reached Dunbar's location, six miles east of Vail's Siding and just two miles from the newly established SPRR service point at Pantano. The rails tied this stretch of desert into a national system of expansion. With them came settlers, speculators, and an emerging conviction that natural systems were not just to be lived alongside, but "put to work."

By 1901, rancher W. K. Maull imagined the creek not as a riparian corridor, but as stored potential. His bold idea was to dam Cienega Creek and harness its waters for growth. But it was fellow rancher Alex Berger who would make that idea a reality. The dam's construction was a herculean undertaking. There were no bulldozers or modern earthmovers, only



Rancho del Lago Lake, Daily Collection, Vail Preservation Society

forty-five men, raw determination, and improvised problem-solving. Centrifugal pumps were brought in to divert the creek during construction, then adjusted and re-adjusted as flows overwhelmed their capacity. Years of planning, consulting, investigation, and speculation culminated in a massive intervention in the creek's natural rhythm.

Berger and his partners believed they were building the next Roosevelt Dam. Phoenix had boomed, why couldn't Vail? Water, they were certain, would make them rich. On April 3, 1911, the Tucson Daily Citizen announced the dream: "3,000,000 gallons of water a day for Tucson from Vail Station." Berger's La Cienega Land and Cattle Company proposed piping the creek's water directly to the city. The Tucson City Council declined. The headline faded. And so did the dream.

Compounding the failed dream, the dam never performed as promised. It silted up quickly. It was dredged, then silted again. The grand development scheme—the vision of unincorporated Vail transformed into the next Phoenix—never materialized. Still, the dam worked well enough to deliver water to the property to which its water rights were attached.

Water traveled from the dam to La Cienega Ranch through metal pipe and a tunnel bored straight through solid rock along the creek's embankment. It was a dramatic improvement over the earlier Miners Ditch—just three feet wide and eighteen inches deep—that homesteaders Carter Crane and John Fraker had relied upon to irrigate their fields. For decades, the creek's captured waters sustained what was described as the most visionary and bountiful farm in southeastern Arizona. Then, in 1932, the land changed hands.

Cleaveland and Florence Putnam purchased La Cienega Ranch from the Monthan brothers and their mother, Alma Tattersfield. The Putnam's renamed it Rancho del Lago. The water rights were so critical to the purchase that they took Alma Tattersfield to court to ensure those rights were inseparably bound to the land. The farm disappeared. Fields and orchards were removed. Many of the old,

"VPS" continued on page 16

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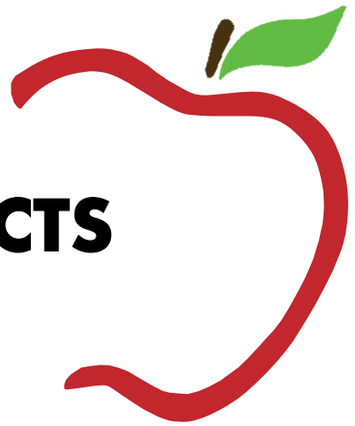
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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!**

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

Dear Editor,

Since its original passage, the Override has helped support exceptional student achievement across the District. The District is ranked #1 among Tucson-area districts in Arizona by Niche.com, reflecting its continued commitment to academic excellence. In May 2026, graduating seniors were awarded more than $15 million in scholarships from in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities. Since the Override's inception, District students have earned 33 National Science Fair awards, received seven Congressional Military Academy appointments, completed more than 4,000 dual-enrollment college credits, produced a Presidential ROTC Scholarship recipient, and achieved recognition as more than 200 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars.

The impact of the Override also extends beyond individual student awards. More than 115 districts and charter schools in Arizona and 17 other states follow the Vail Beyond Textbooks Instructional Game Plan, which is continually reviewed and updated to support effective teaching and learning. Every district ranked in the top 10 percent in Arizona is funded by a tax override, and overrides must be reauthorized every five years. In Vail, override funding supports 172 art, music, physical education, Advanced Placement, gifted, and classroom teachers, helping the District maintain strong student-to-teacher ratios. These classroom ratios are where the achievements noted above begin.

The District also demonstrates strong fiscal stewardship. It holds an A+ Standard & Poor's financial rating, placing it among the top 5 percent of districts in Arizona. According to S&P, the District maintains this rating with a "stable outlook," underscoring its responsible financial management and continued ability to invest override funds in programs and staffing that directly support student success.

Reauthorizing the Override is not simply a budget decision—it is a decision about the future of Vail students. The District's proven record of academic excellence, responsible financial management, and strong student outcomes shows that override funds are being used wisely and effectively. Without this support, the programs, teachers, and classroom conditions that help students succeed would be at risk. Vail students deserve the same outstanding educational opportunities that have made this District one of the strongest in Arizona, and voting to continue the Override is a direct investment in their success, and classroom conditions that make these achievements possible.

Stuart Katz

Dear Editor,

Let's talk about Project Blue and the harm that data centers do to local communities. I know some people hearing this statement are going to be annoyed or frustrated that people are constantly bringing up AI, but it's a very important topic. Blue is a 209-acre data center located on the southeast side of Pima County right here in Arizona.

What's important to note about Project Blue is that it's been going on for a very long time now. The City Council does not support Project Blue and has stated that they will not supply any water to the facility or use city resources. Back in early May, the city of Tucson issued a letter to Project Blue because they were using Tucson water "for dust control purposes."

Many people don't realize the harm these data centers cause to the community and the people living near them. Some of the harm that data centers can do is mineral extraction processes, massive water consumption and significant energy demands, and emissions of pollution in the atmosphere.

We can see harm such as this in Memphis, Tennessee, where people are getting lung cancer due to the fossil fuels, as well as in Virginia. "Warrenton, VA (March 4th, 2026) - A new independent analysis finds the emissions from the Vantage data center's permitted on-site power system in Loudoun County could result in 59,000,000 to 99,000,000 per year in health-related damages" (pecva.org)

Dr. Michael Cork from EmPower analytic group says, "When large data centers use fossil fuel turbines for power in populated areas, even a modest increase in air pollution can have real health consequences."

People need to be more aware of the harm that data centers can do to the community and why they need to be updated on what's going on around them when it comes to AI and consumption.

Seán Colbert

Dear Editor,

Psalm 139:14 describes us as being "fearfully and wonderfully made." Indeed, the complexity and wonder of our being is astounding. No one understands this more fully than the One who designed us.

Knowing us intimately, and loving us abundantly, our Creator provided us with written directions for how we can live life to the fullest. It should not surprise us when those who study human life find that contentment corresponds with the directions found in God's Holy Word.

Take, for example, Jesus' command that we love one another. The website for the United Kingdom's Mental Health Foundation points out, "Those of us who are kind and compassionate experience clear benefits to our well-being and happiness. We may even live longer. Kindness also helps reduce stress and improve our emotional well-being." When we care for others, we actually make our own lives better as well.

Or consider the instruction in Galatians 6:9: "And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary." What shall we reap from doing good? Well, certain "feel good" chemicals are released in our bodies when we do good to others, including serotonin (which regulates mood), dopamine (which gives a sense of pleasure), and

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"Letters to the Editor" cont. from pg 7

oxytocin (which creates a sense of connection with others).

It seems that our Designer knows how we can get the most out of life. We will do well to read the instructions given to us and put them into practice.

Tom Tripp

Dear Editor,

The IRS demands the use of a form #4137: Unreported Tips, to legally report any additional income from cash tips to waiters that are not included in their W-2. These unreported earnings Form 4137 are to be submitted alongside IRS Form 1040 When submitting a tax return.

In some restaurants, a waiter's cash tips are reported at the time of clocking out. These cash tips are then added to their income and reported on a W2 for the IRS. Some employers do, some do not. This is exactly why the IRS requires these unreported tips to be added at the end of the year.

My son filled out this form and claimed an additional $6,000 income for 2026, which, in turn, had him pay the required SS and Medicare taxes. (Fed tax on tips were not taxed this past year).

Unfortunately due to a schedule mix up this waiter was let go. When it came time to receive unemployment, he did not qualify due the Monetary Determination by the DES. Additional income claimed to the IRS is not included in this Monetary Determination. This extra income qualifies this applicant for unemployment.

AZ DES does not recognize IRS form 4137 as additional income. After three appeals and two telephone hearings, this kangaroo court, conducted by the DES, denied this applicant's qualification and unemployment benefits.

Many would have a hard time understanding why someone would even fill out this form, and now, so do I.

Michael B Trenkle

Dear Editor,

To the Editor of the Vail Voice:
As someone who has carefully researched the issues that are being addressed by the November Protect Education Act ballot initiative to create safeguards on the use of Education Scholarship Account (ESA) funds, I am writing to correct the misinformation that was published (in two separate letters written by two people with the same last name) in last month's Vail Voice concerning the impact of this initiative.

I am hopeful that the authors' misinformation was due to their not having read the ballot initiative carefully, rather than due to intentional misrepresentation.

Here are some facts Vail readers should be aware of:

1. The Protect Education Act does not end the school voucher system.
2. Students with disabilities will have access to ESA funds with no limitations on funds used for allowable educational needs.
3. Everyone will be able to make choices about their child's education.
4. The Protect Education Act will create a family income cap of $150,000 for access to ESA vouchers for non-disabled students. This is so Arizona taxpayers will no longer be subsidizing private schools for well-to-do Arizonans, for a total of 1 billion dollars with no income cap. Note that 70% of families taking a voucher for private school were already enrolled there and paying themselves.
5. Among other restrictions to prevent abuse of the ESA funds, the act defines allowed and disallowed educational expenditures – no more purchases of jewelry, hot tubs, or resort stays. Currently, there are no such restrictions.
6. Finally, the act requires ALL schools receiving taxpayer funds to have the same safety checks for staff and basic academic standards for students as public schools are required to have. No pedophiles allowed.

This information is especially important to Vail voters. We invest heavily in our own public schools and are proud of their quality. We rely on limited investments by the state to complement our own tax dollars in the VISD. The current unchecked growth of ESA dollars makes limited state resources less available for our public schools and shifts more burden to us local taxpayers. This issue affects all of us.

Everyone should vote for the Protect Education Act. It is designed to limit unnecessary expenditures for private education, create protections for all students, and help limit local tax burden.

Ken Minkoff

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on Steve Christy's District 4 Update in the August issue.

We have always been a country somewhat defined by its divisions. Landowners versus slaves. Industrialists v. workers. Black v. white. The 99% v. the 1%. Individually we define who constitutes each side. My definition of bigotry versus a social conscience is Christy's statement that "PEEPS" (Pima Early Education Program Scholarships) is "an enhanced pre-kindergarten day-care for a small, select population at taxpayer expense", opposed to "I'm all for children getting an early start on their education, which will most likely benefit society in the future, even if it requires me helping to foot the bill."

The program is for 3- or 4-year-old children in families with incomes at or below 300% of the 2026 Federal Poverty Level; that is $99,000 for a family of four (the federal level being a ridiculously low $33,000 for a family of 4). With today's costs for housing, insurance, food, gas, etc..., life is tough enough without factoring in day-care costs. And our vice president wants families to have more children! Nothing better than a call-to-action for the masses without any regard for the financial costs placed upon already struggling families. More babies in need of programs like PEEPS will certainly make America great again.

I would be proud to see our community continue supporting this program. Unfortunately, my opinion is versus that of a president (and I'm guessing our District 4 supervisor) who loves "the poorly educated."

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

HEAT OPTIMIST CLUB

Optimist Oratorical and Essay Scholarship Winners

The Heat Optimist Club sponsored two students in the spring Optimist AZ District scholarship contests. Grace Reimann from Rita Ranch was the first-place winner of the Arizona District Essay contest with her essay on "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me". Grace received a $ 2,500 scholarship and the opportunity to

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Digging Up History

By Chuck Colbath

Being born in Arizona but raised in New Hampshire, I experienced things folks my age here may not have, but each of us had experiences appropriate for our location.

My best friend at the time and I were interested in old glass, old bottles mostly. I remember a time when we both had a day going through antique shops in search of old bottles, and the excitement of finding some kept us on the hunt. There was no staring at screens all day long back then!

Having learned about old time glass making, the age of a bottle could be determined by how the mold and top of the bottle were made. Seams on the neck of the bottle would end at the base, go halfway up, or over the top depending on its age. Most bottles we collected were from the 1860's to the1890's.

One year, for a 4-H exhibition at the University of New Hampshire, my friend Eddy and I built a box which was lighted from behind the plexiglass in the back. We both discussed our findings and won the Blue Ribbon for the days event!

Living in a town that dated back to the 1700's, there were old bottles scattered behind houses, over stone walls, and everywhere! After all, this was before the advent of town dumps. The 200 year old house we lived in had a newer addition that was only 100 years old. Unlike the original house, the saltbox addition only had a crawlspace. I just fit, and dug in the dirt, finding a round-bottomed ginger ale bottle from the early 1800's.

One time, on a dig in an old dump, I found an old Indian arrowhead. It was confirmed to be an authentic artifact by the University of New Hampshire. I decided to donate that old bit of history to the historical society in my town of Dunbarton New Hampshire.

I accumulated so many old bottles that my grandfather built a shelving unit so I could display the best of my collection.

Some bottles boasted "magical cures" from what came to be called snake oil salesmen. The prime ingredient was alcohol which also helped keep one warm in the old outhouse. I understand our old house had an outhouse in the barn until 1940.

When I was collecting, there were books on antique bottles with pictures, descriptions, and values. Before cell phones and computers, we found things to do, and I would not trade those experiences for anything.

Perhaps finding a hobby that gets us away from our phones for a bit could do us all a little good, don't you think? Real, outdoor experiences are good for our bodies and our minds. Instead of a "digital reality", one should just focus on the real world. That provides the memories we remember for a lifetime..

In a time when old fashioned caring service seems to be a thing of the past, you can still find it at Bavilon 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.

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ReSources
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Plan Now to Participate in ReSources Golf Fundraiser, Saturday, October 24th

Time to gather your foursomes and mark your calendars for Greater Vail Community Resources Golf Challenge which will take place on Saturday, October 24th at the Forty Niner Country Club in the beautiful Tanque Verde Valley. Golfers and sponsors are invited to visit the website for full details and to register easily online by October 14th: www.resourcesvail.org

It's about golf, comradery, food and fun, but more importantly, it's about generating funds to support the Resources Vail Food Bank and its many programs including the Emergency Food Program,



"Weekend Meals to Grow" program for local school children, and the homebound senior food program. This is the number one annual fundraiser for ReSources. The volunteers, staff and clients of Resources Vail Food Bank depend on the generosity of our southern Arizona residents and business community to bridge the food gap that exists in our neighborhoods, often unseen.

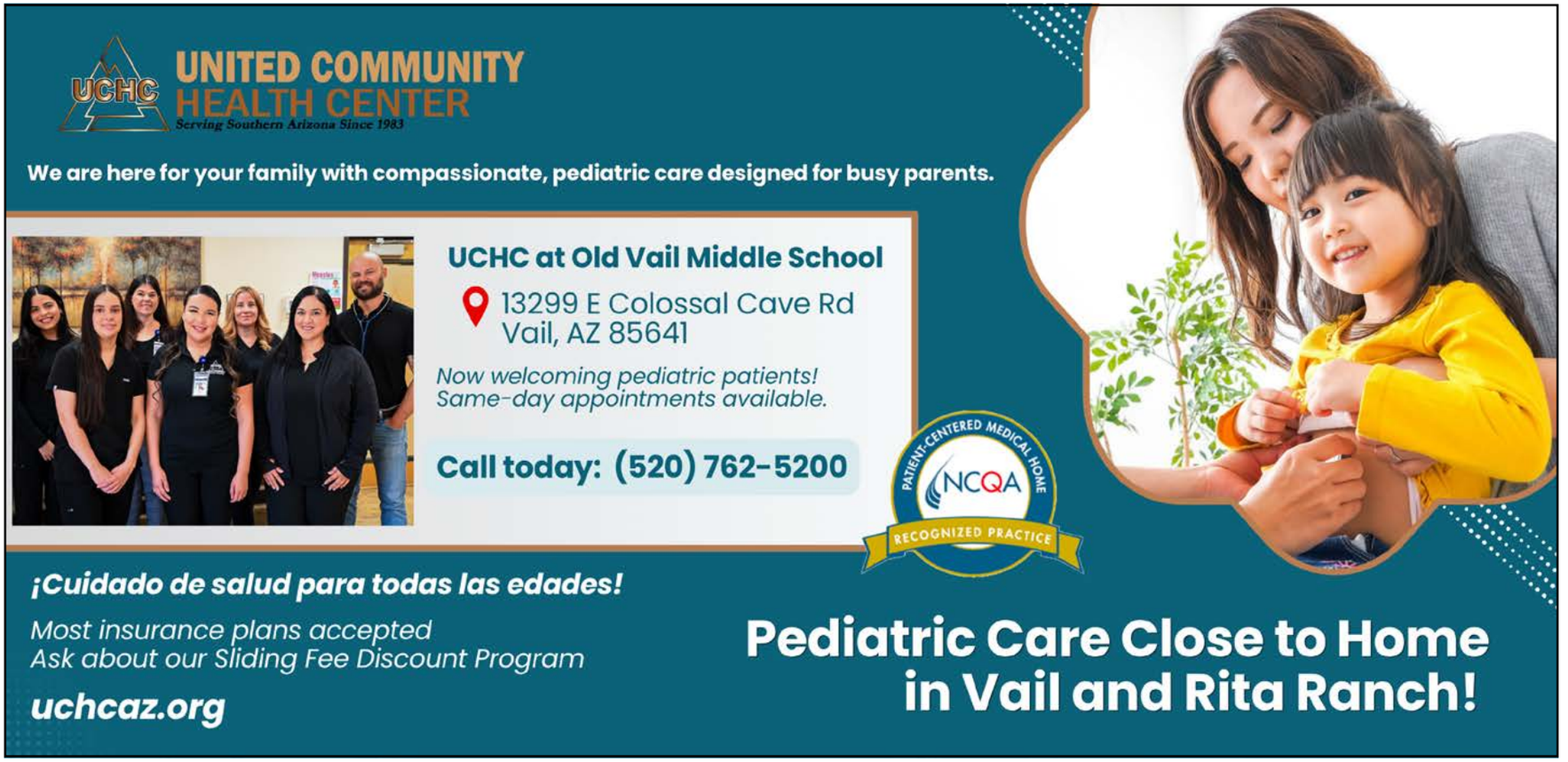
We extend grateful thanks to our 2026 Premier Sponsors: Vulcan Materials Company and the Atkinson Family Trust. In addition, many thanks go to Mercedes Benz of Tucson and general manager, John Hornbeck, for once again sponsoring an exciting Hole-in-One contest where one lucky player could go home in a new Mercedes vehicle! Sponsorships are the key to the success of golf tournaments, and we hope that area businesses, corporate neighbors, public sector organizations and individuals will turn out to make the 2026 Golf Challenge a huge success.

Golfer fees for 2026 are unchanged from last year: $125 / golfer, $475 / foursome. This will be a four-person scramble format with shotgun start at 8:00 am. Participants may register in the "Open" division or the "First Responder and Military" division. Along with a few fun side hustle games, raffle tickets and mulligans will be available online and at the event.

Be a part of helping ReSources continue its mission of feeding the hungry and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in 2026. Questions? Contact tournament chair, Shane Stamback (shanestamback@resourcesvail.org) or tournament volunteer, Susan Summers (susansummers@resourcesvail.org)

Susan Summers has been a resident of Vail for over 15 years and has served as a ReSources board member for five years. She and her husband, Paul, love the Sonoran Desert, its abundant wildlife, glorious sunsets and keeping their golf balls on the fairway as much as possible.





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Statewide Excellence

The Vail Unified School District has made history as it is the first district in Arizona to simultaneously ho

These honors further come from THREE separate organizations. Arizona Teacher of the Year is awarded by the Arizo Arizona School Administrators' Association, and Lou Ella Kleinz Excellence in Governance

Teacher of the Year

Vail has brought home the Arizona Teacher of the Year honor!

Lisa Scott, Esmond Station science teacher, was named Arizona Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF). Mrs. Scott now moves on as Arizona's representative for National Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Scott concluded her acceptance speech by emphasizing that "our work is ensuring that the best in humanity outweighs the worst - and it is everyone's responsibility. We must teach the students of Arizona how to develop into good humans and make them feel as valued and supported as my community and students have made me feel."

For those of you who don't know Mrs. Scott personally, we can tell you that she is inspiring. Mrs. Scott began her teaching career in Vail before she and her family moved back east for a few years. We were grateful when the Scotts returned to Vail where Lisa became a science teacher at Esmond Station K8.

Lisa became a quadruple amputee after surviving complications from septic shock in 2023. A year and a half later, Vail was again grateful for Lisa's return as she chose the teaching profession again… where she could be around and work with her favorite kind of humans - middle school students and share the lessons she learned through her recovery of the best of humanity.

Congratulations to Lisa Scott and to all who have helped support her along the way. Mrs. Scott is certainly representative of the many incredibly high quality educators who choose to teach in Vail.



To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

e in Vail… Times Four!

ld the state's top recognitions for teaching, school leadership, district leadership, and district governance.

na Educational Foundation; Arizona Principal of the Year and Arizona Superintendent of the Year are awarded by the Award (Governing Board of the Year) is awarded by the Arizona School Boards Association.

Principal of the Year



Andrada Polytechnic High School Principal, Geoff Parks, is the current Arizona School Administrator's Association's (ASA) secondary school principal of the year! His own staff said the following about him in their most recent A+ application, "Geoff Parks' relentless dedication to the success and well-being of every student sets him apart as an outstanding principal. Under his guidance, students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed academically and are instilled with the confidence and resilience to thrive in an ever-changing world."

Superintendent of the Year

Vail's Superintendent, John Carruth, is currently Arizona's Superintendent of the Year for Large Districts after having been nominated by surprise by his colleagues and recommended by his friend and mentor, long time superintendent, the late Calvin Baker. Mr. Baker wrote, "John's ability to preserve a strong academic reputation, while cultivating deep relationships with parents, students, staff, and community members, has earned him and his district strong and healthy public support. His work should be recognized and held up for others to follow."



Governing Board of the Year



And, the Vail Governing Board is the current Arizona School Board Association's most recent recipient of the Lou Ella Kleinz Award (Arizona School Board of the Year). Superintendent Carruth stated, "Leadership matters, and receiving this award is a recognition of our board's commitment to civility and good judgement as they wrestle with the complex issues that impact our families and our community."

These recognitions do not belong to the individual efforts of the people who received them, but instead honor the collective hard work of everyone who leans in to make Vail a wonderful place where students can thrive. Vail has long been recognized as a lighthouse and leader across the state for its strong and supportive community and outstanding educational opportunities for children. These awards are an indication that this important work is alive and well.

"VPS" continued from page 4

stately trees were cut down. In their place rose an elegant estate, complete with a racetrack for Putnam's winning thoroughbred horses. The creek's waters now filled ornamental lakes, a large swimming pool, and lush landscaped grounds. The waters of Cienega Creek had become a dude rancher's fantasy of a desert oasis.

That fantasy remains today, but now those same waters keep a golf course vivid green despite drought and the unrelenting sun. The Monthan and Putnam's prized leisure ponds are being allowed to dry up. To some, they are amenities. To the fish left behind, and to the wildlife that came to depend on them, they are lifelines, ersatz remnants of a creek long since redirected. Drought forces choices. But who makes those choices, and the criteria used, matters.



Cienega Creek, Vail Preservation Society

Both developers and residents have invested their lives and resources here, often drawn by the promise of the historic water features and the connection to nature they suggest. Wildlife, through no decisions of their own, now depends on these channeled systems for survival. Cienega Creek teaches us the value of water. Once treated as a commodity, it reshapes land, economies, ecosystems, and expectations. In times of scarcity, the question is not simply how water is used, but whether we are willing to be informed, thoughtful stewards of the transformed systems we inherited. The dreamers and schemers might manipulate and move on, but the creek remembers every choice.

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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Climate Review



A Look Back

Vail Funnel Cloud, 8.8.26

An isolated storm developed off the Rincons and moved West-southwest into Vail and right over my home in Central Del Lago during the afternoon of August 9th. I had brief heavy rain from this event. Once the storm passed just to my West-southwest, I noticed a funnel cloud extending down at the back end of the storm.

A funnel cloud is a cone-shaped cloud of condensed water droplets hanging from a storm cloud. It forms around a spinning column of wind, but it does not touch the ground. If it touches the ground, it becomes a tornado.

How They Form?
Parent storms: They usually form under big thunderstorms called supercells.

Spinning air: Warm air rising and cold air shifting create a horizontal roll. Rising storm winds tilt this roll upright.

Condensation: Low pressure inside the spinning wind drops the air temperature. This turns water vapor into a visible cloud.



I have seen a few of these in my 38 years living in southern Arizona and they are a nice sight, so long as they do not touch the ground and become a tornado.



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.

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RABBI'S CORNER

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Happy New Year!

When we hear the words Rosh Hashanah, we naturally think of the beginning of a new year. Yet the Torah's expression, Rosh Hashanah, literally means "the head of the year." Why do we call it the "head" rather than simply the beginning?

The distinction is profound. The head is not merely the first part of the body. It directs and gives life to everything that follows. In the same way, Rosh Hashanah is more than the first day of the year. It is the "head" that influences the entire year ahead.

Think about the human body. The brain is the center of thought and awareness. Everything we experience is processed through it. In a similar way, Rosh Hashanah is meant to give us a spiritual perspective that shapes the days and months that follow.

There is another powerful lesson here: every year is unique. Time may appear repetitive,we have another Monday, another month, another year, but no moment is ever exactly the same as another. Every year has its own character and purpose.

That realization should change the way we approach time. If every moment is unique, then wasting time means losing something that can never be recreated. We can always make better use of the next moment, but we cannot return to the moment that has already passed.

This is why Rosh Hashanah is an opportunity to establish the direction of the coming year. We cannot know everything that will happen. Life is too complex to plan every detail. But we can decide what kind of year we want it to be. What values will guide us? What will we prioritize? What kind of person do we want to become?

The Jewish tradition describes this spiritual process as placing a "crown of kingship" upon the year. We recognize G-d as King and, in doing so, establish a direction for our lives.

Perhaps this is the deeper message of Rosh Hashanah: we are not simply starting another year, we are giving the year a head. The thoughts, priorities and commitments we establish now can influence everything that follows.

May we enter the New Year with clarity, purpose and the determination to make every precious moment count.

Rosh Hashanah this year begins in the evening of September 11th, and ends September 13th at night. We listen to the sound of the Shofar on Sunday, September 12th.

For more information visit jewishvailaz.com or email rabbi@jewishvailaz.com

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



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Subterranean Termites in Vail: What Homeowners Should Know

Vail's monsoon storms bring more than relief from the summer heat. They also bring increased activity from one of Arizona's most destructive pests: subterranean termites.

Why They're a Big Deal
Subterranean termites live in underground colonies and build mud tubes to travel from the soil to wood in your home. This allows them to remain hidden while causing significant structural damage, often before homeowners realize there's a problem.

What to Look For
Termites are especially active following monsoon rains, making late summer and early fall an important time to watch for:

• Mud tubes along foundations or exterior walls

• Winged swarmers or shed wings near windows, patios, or lights

• Hollow-sounding, damaged, or crumbling wood

• Small exit holes with dirt around the opening on interior walls

Professional inspections can identify termite activity and help determine the right treatment for your home. At Bill's Home Service, our locally informed approach considers Southern Arizona's climate, soil conditions, and construction styles.

For more information or to schedule a free termite inspection, call **520-346-4564** or visit **BillsHomeService.com**.

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"Construction Zone / Close-up" continued from page 3



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.



Slice&Ice next location will be on 22nd & Kolb.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE CLOSE-UP

You've probably seen the horse statue across from the apartments on Valencia. The sculptor is Simon Donovan. You may have seen some of his work at other east side locations. There's the rock horse and disappearing horses on Houghton and perhaps most notably, rattlesnake bridge on Broadway near downtown. He partners with collaborator Ben Olmstead.

Simon's inspiration for the horse designs reflects the horse properties beyond Rita Ranch and the locations plan to be a future trailhead that's not all developed yet. Eventually it will have plantings and trees and more amenities to make it pleasant and not so barren, so the sculpture doesn't stick out so much. A parking lot will also likely be in the same area. Simon further described his work by saying "It's almost like a Truscan horse but then it's on two wheels, so it becomes almost like a toy."

Artists compete for the commission and, based on portfolio and past works, a finalist is selected. Open houses for the Valencia road project were held and art was included for discussion. Community members filled out their preferences and, once selected, Simon and Ben went to work. " There is a studio bronze, carving and clay. Ben welded it all together and the perimeter metal. People will go look at it." Simon says he and Ben always work with the community to provide art people can enjoy for years to come.



By Lucretia Free

Events

Every Thursday, 7 p.m.
Vail Al-Anon Family Group Meeting at St. Rita in the Desert Church, 13260 E. Colossal Cave Rd. A fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who come together for mutual help. Families, friends and observers are welcome. al-anon.org.

Every Friday, 6 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery meeting at Empire High School Library, 10701 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way. A fellowship for those dealing with any type of hurts, hang-ups and habits that are controlling their lives. Age 18 +.

Every Sunday, 11 a.m.
Desert Skies United Methodist Church worship service. Great Room 13715 E. Langtry Ln. ASA building. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Thurs, Sept. 3, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Dr. Daniel Soh, Associate Professor of Optical Sciences at the U of A, "Quantum Headlines: What's Real, What's Hype, What's at Stake." In this talk by Dr. Soh, listeners will meet Planck, Einstein, and Bell, separating real science from hype, and learn how to judge what's genuine.

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.

Wed, Sept. 9, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Lisa Molomot, Peabody-Award Winning documentary filmmaker and adjunct Law Professor at the U of A, "Filming in the American Southwest." The speaker highlights her recent films, Missing in Brooks County and The First Birdman, which follow elderly individuals pursuing final goals, and shares inspiring stories along with behind-the-scenes insights.

Fri, Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: The Morpholinos feature accordion-driven original music as well as an eclectic collection of tasty covers. The band features Gary Mackender on accordion, Neil McCallion on guitar, Karl Hoffmann on bass and Nick Augustine on drums. A mix of southwestern and Cajun influences give the band their unique, exciting sound.

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

Mon, Sept. 14, 3 p.m.
ASA:* Lecture by Deborah Robin: Ed.D., Regional Director of Operations., Keller Graduate School of Management, and Art History Instructor, Art Institute of Phoenix, "But Is It Art? Dada and the Rebellion Born from War." Part 1 of a 6-part series on reinventing art explores how World War I shattered faith in European culture.

Wed, Sept. 16, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Deborah Robin: Ed.D., Regional Director of Operations., Keller Graduate School of Management, and Art History Instructor, Art Institute of Phoenix, "The Logic of Dreams: Surrealism and the World Beneath the Surface." Part 2 of a 6-part series explores how Surrealists, inspired by Freud's ideas, sought truth in dreams, accidents and the irrational.

Fri, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Classical guitarist Michael Lich and pianist Ji Sun Lee perform solos and duets, with selections ranging from Vivaldi and Boccherini, to Liszt and Brahms, to Piazzolla, Jobim and contemporary composers.

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

Mon, Sept. 21, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Lynne Schepartz, Ph.D., Paleontology Collections Manager (retired), U of A's Arizona Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, "How Humans Became Uniquely Creative Thinkers." Dr. Schepartz explores archaeological evidence revealing the origins of language, symbols, problem solving, creativity and social identity.

Wed, Sept. 23, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture TBA.

Fri, Sept. 25, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Carla Fabris, principal harpist of the New Mexico Philharmonic and Santa Fe Symphony, presents a solo recital of works by Handel, Donizetti, Satie and Stanislow.

Mon, Sept. 28, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Celia Bavier, Executive Director of the Border Community Alliance, "Myths & Realities of Mexico and BCA's Work in the Borderlands." The speaker explores myths and realities surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border and highlights BCA's efforts to dispel stereotypes and strengthen cultural exchange and social investment.

Wed, Sept. 30, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Allen Dart, executive director, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, "How Archeologists Identify Stone Artifacts and Cultural Features." The speaker explains how archaeologists identify an archaeological site and distinguish a prehistoric stoned tool from a natural rock through photographs, illustrations and hands-on artifacts.

Fri, Oct. 2, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Guitarist Gabriel Ayala brings his Quintet to play his signature Jazzmenco and mixed-genre styles. A member of the Yaqui people of southern Arizona, Gabriel is a multi-dimensional artist whose philosophy is "Love your children, Honor your elders, and Respect your women".

Sat, Oct. 10, 17, 9 a.m. - noon
Puppet Making Workshop for the Day of the Dead Parade! Create a Giant Sugar Skull puppet for the parade. Open to all ages! Grandparents, bring your grandkids! 14893 E Colossal Cave Rd Vail, AZ 85641

Sun, Oct. 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 Contact: www.tucsoncoinclub.com

Sun, Oct. 11, 8 a.m.
Persons with Special Needs Mass at St. Rita of the Desert Catholic Church. If you have special needs, or if you would like to bring a relative or a friend with special needs to this Mass, please know that you are invited and encouraged to join! Please contact Jim Grayson at (815)546-4944 to advise the Knights of Columbus council what special needs you or your companion have, to enable your fullest participation.

***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 additinal information on your event. Events must be received before the 20th of each month prior to publication.

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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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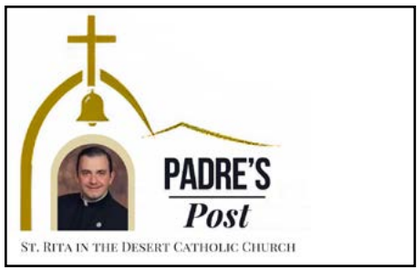
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Dear Vail Community,

As Labor Day approaches and we prepare to mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, I want to share a few thoughts with our neighbors here in Vail, Arizona.

Labor Day calls us to honor the dignity of work—the steady efforts of those who keep our com-munity strong. We see it in the teachers shaping our children, the first responders and healthcare workers who serve with quiet dedication, the ranchers and business owners, the construction crews building homes, and every neighbor who shows up each day to contribute. Work is more than a paycheck; it is how we care for one another and build a place worth calling home.

Twenty-five years after the attacks of 9/11, we also remember a day that tested our nation. The loss was immense, yet so was the courage that followed—ordinary people becoming extraordinary in the face of tragedy. That anniversary invites us to pause with gratitude for the freedoms we still enjoy and the resilience that continues to mark the American spirit.

I am especially thankful for God's grace that allows us to be here. The open skies, the desert beauty surrounding us, the safety of this community, and the chance to raise families and work with purpose are gifts we did not create on our own. They are given. In moments of reflection, I sense that same grace sustaining us through challenges and inviting us to use what we have been given for the good of our neighbors.

This Labor Day, and on the anniversary that follows, may we honor those who labor among us, remember those we lost, and receive with humble hearts the gifts that make life in Vail possible.

With warm regards and shared gratitude, A Grateful Neighbor.

By Very Reverend
Alonzo M. Garcia, Dean





"Heat Optimist" cont. from page 25

read her essay at the April 25th AZ District Optimist Meeting in Tucson. The Arizona District meeting also hosted the District Oratorical Contest in which eight Arizona students competed for scholarships. Hope Trask, a student at Tanque Verde High School, was the third-place winner and received a $500 Scholarship. The Oratorical theme was "The Moment I Realized I Belonged, My Definition of Community". Information about the 2026-2027 Essay and Oratorical Contests and registration forms can be found at the Heat Optimist Club website below.



Left to right, Grace Reimann and Hope Trask

The Heat Optimist Club meets 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 Marcia Aurand
Heat Optimist Club

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

Easy Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

Hard Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

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Back to School in the Heat:

Supporting Arizona's Students and the Adults Who Love Them

Here in Vail, "back to school" doesn't come with crisp fall air. It comes with 100+* afternoons, monsoon season, and students returning to class while most of the country is still on summer break.

Students are adjusting to disrupted sleep and shifting friendships, on top of the usual academic and social pressures. Parents are rebuilding schedules, tracking water bottles, and quietly worrying about a world they can't fully see for hours a day.

None of these definitively mean that something is 'wrong' but can reflect that everyone is adjusting at once, and that deserves a bit of grace. Small changes like consistent bedtime or a five-minute check-in can do more than any elaborate, complicated system.

If this season feels harder than expected, Mindful Vision Counseling offers help for the whole family.

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By A. Whitney Shea, LPC-S, ADHD-CCSP, Owner & Clinical Director,

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OpEd

I moved to Corona De Tucson (CDT), AZ one year ago from VA. I am a legal resident, rural property owner, and registered voter.

I found favorable reviews for this area that has approximately 10,000 residents, offering peaceful rural living, nestled near the Santa Rita Mountains of Vail, that is unincorporated, and located in Pima County, with an elevation of 3,300 feet. An article described CDT as a close little community, off the beaten trail, with charisma in 1970.

In April 2026, Hudbay Minerals purchased "160 acres of residential (undervalued) zoned land" in CDT to dump copper waste tailings. Efforts are being taken to protect this land, from monitoring any pending zoning changes that would result in noise pollution, toxic dust that occurs with high winds experienced here, (the area has also begun use of air monitors), excessive water use by Hudbay, along with poisonous permanent environmental changes that will affect everyone, including the animals and nature itself.

If you drive into Sahuarita and Green Valley you can see the results of tailings that are 30 stories high, and well over 7,000 acres of wastelands. This is man-made wilderness with visible erosion from the top to bottom layers. You won't find many native plants that could relieve some erosion problems and animal habitats have disappeared.

In CDT, the law of gravity is visible, often said as what goes up must come down. During monsoons in CDT water travels from the high elevations, down mountains, hills, and reaches into valleys.
The toxic waste of tailings in higher elevations such as CDT would generate millions of fine particles including arsenic, mercury, and other dangerous metals and toxins stored behind dams, that are highly susceptible to wind transportation. Gravity and wind work together to settle toxic dust into communities, which can result in severe respiratory and health problems.

With dams holding back large amounts of environmentally hazardous waste, their failings are a constant fear for residential neighborhoods where tailings exist. These large, man-made piles of mining debris are inherently unstable under the force of gravity. These enormous dumps can experience slope failures that can bury residential buildings.

Commercial waste is unacceptable for rural homestead lands. Please join us in our efforts as responsible stewards of this land, its entrusted resources, with natural environment, water, and ensuring sustainability, balancing needs and fostering accountability for future generations by contacting nocopperworld@gmail.com and Facebook.

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Connect Pima Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030

Rural Portions of Cochise and Pima County are included in the Connect Pima Strategic plan that has been funded by USDA's Rural Utility Services. Michelle Simon, Director of the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion works with municipalities, community-based organizations, internet service providers and local stakeholders to implement the mission of Connect Pima. Joseph Cuffari works with the engagement efforts to make sure everyone is included in internet accessibility. Their presentation focused on the feasibility and accessibility of the internet to all residents of Pima County.

Broadband feasibility looks at internet coverage and focuses efforts in rural areas based on community engagement, market surveys and asset mapping that has identified gaps with internet services. The gaps will be filled by conceptual network design and recommendations of stakeholders. The stakeholders are individuals and businesses in the rural areas of Pima County that do not receive internet service. Connect Pima is working on developing an affordable financial model and implementation of strategies that could be used in Pima County to provide affordable, high speed and reliable internet services to all people in Pima County.

Currently, there are varying infrastructures for internet service provision: wireless, satellite, fiber in the ground, dishes, etc. The plan is to expand broadband infrastructure and digital literacy initiatives to ensure people and



businesses can be connected to internet services. Many areas currently do have internet connection due to cost, unstable signals, internet literacy skills or lack of providers in the area. It is difficult to provide a return on investment, if all people do not benefit from the services. More providers of internet services, will increase quality and keep costs competitive and affordable.

E-mail michelle.simon@pima.gov to ask questions or learn how you may be able to access affordable internet services for your residence or business.

By Carol A. Wagner Williams
info@seacpimacounty.org

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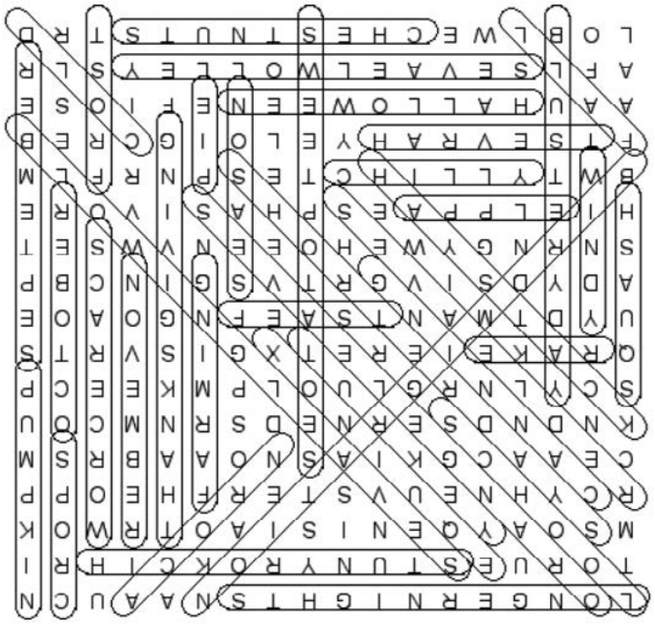
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Autumn



What Is a HELOC and How Can Homeowners Use One?

The value locked in your home can do more than just sit there. With a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), that value can be transformed into a powerful financial tool. Hughes Federal Credit Union offers a comprehensive HELOC solution designed to meet the varied needs of homeowners in Arizona. This guide will walk you through the basics, providing a solid foundation for those considering a HELOC for the first time.

What is a HELOC?

A HELOC is a revolving line of credit that allows homeowners to borrow against the equity of their home. It works similarly to a credit card, offering flexible access to funds up to a certain limit, but with your home serving as collateral. This financial tool is particularly useful for large expenses or projects where the total cost may be unknown up front.

How Does a HELOC Work?

A HELOC consists of two phases: the draw period and the repayment period.

- Draw Period: This is the time (10 years) during which you can actively borrow against your line of credit. With Hughes, you can easily access your funds via your checking account, online, or by phone.
- Repayment Period: After the draw period ends, you enter the repayment period (up to 20 years), where you can no longer draw funds and must start paying back the principal plus interest.

HELOC vs. Refinancing: Making the Right Choice

Homeowners often weigh the option between a HELOC and refinancing their mortgage. While refinancing can provide a lower interest rate for the entire mortgage, a HELOC offers flexibility and access to funds as needed without altering the terms of your existing mortgage. The decision between these options should consider interest rates, closing costs, how long you plan to stay in your home, and how quickly you need access to funds.

Using Your HELOC

The versatility of a HELOC is one of its most attractive features. Highlights for several uses include:

- Making home improvements to increase your property's value
- Consolidating debt
- Funding significant life events or purchases

Hughes Federal Credit Union: Your Partner in Financial Success

Embrace the possibilities with Hughes' HELOC and let your home work hard for you. For more information and to apply, visit HughesFCU.org/HELOC and explore how a HELOC can fit into your financial strategy.

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We are so grateful to Jen Anderson with Long Realty, CORE Construction, and Concord General Contracting for renewing their sponsorships with the Vail School District Foundation! Your continued support makes such a difference and helps us provide more opportunities for our teachers and students. We are incredibly thankful to have such generous community partners by our side year after year!

One of the ways your support makes an impact is through classroom grants! We're excited to celebrate a recent grant awarded to Desert Sky Middle School and Mr. Gregory Kelley to purchase new equipment for the school's weight room. A special thank-you to David Lute with PostNet for helping provide funding for this grant! Together, our community is investing in our students and creating opportunities for them to learn, grow, and thrive. We couldn't do it without you!

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