

November Events!
11/11 - *Veterans Day*
11/26 - *Thanksgiving*
See Events on pg. 21!

Sudoku is back on Page 17

THE

NOVEMBER 2026
Your Hometown Newspaper

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
Tucson, AZ
PERMIT No. 1710
ECRWSSEDDM
Postal Customer

VAIL VOICE™

Proudly Serving South East Tucson, Corona de Tucson and Vail Since 2001

FREE

sales@thevailvoice.com • (520) 490-0654 • An Epiphany Communications, Inc. Publication

Angel Tree Program

Sharing the Holiday Magic: The VailUSD Holiday Angel Program Welcomes Your Support

Every child deserves to experience the magic and joy of the holiday season. Here in the Vail Unified School District, we pride ourselves on being a community that shows up for one another, believing deeply that supporting our children and youth is a community effort.

For many families, the holidays are a time of celebration and togetherness. However, for those facing economic hardships, this season can bring immense stress and difficult choices. To support our local families, our school counselors and student services coordinators work closely with the community to run the VUSD Holiday Angel Program, acknowledging that for many children, the gifts provided through this program directly fulfill their most basic and essential needs.

The impact of this program is tangible. Through the extraordinary kindness of Vail residents, businesses, faith groups, and school staff, we have historically connected hundreds of deserving children with generous donors. As community needs continue to evolve, we are once again looking for "Angels" who want to make a



"Headline Story" cont. on page 8



Rocking K Veterans Day 5K & 3K Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, Nov. 7 | 8:00 AM

Saguaro Creek K-8
8150 S Rocking K Ranch Loop Road,
Tucson, AZ 85747

Register Now

At Rocking K, the mountains refuse to stay in the background. Step into the view on Saturday, November 7, for our competitive 5K or relaxed 3K Fun Run/Walk. Each participant helps provide essential gear for 150 local cadets in the Cienega High School / VUSD National Junior ROTC Drill Team and Color Guard.

Explore 17 model homes and 80 floorplans with special incentives on move-in ready homes and luxury rental residences .

LiveRockingK.com

ROCKING Designed by Nature

CENTURY COMMUNITIES	Del Webb ROCKING K	D·R·HORTON America's Builder	LENNAR	mattamyHOMES	Meritage Homes	MODERNE AT ROCKING K	RICHMOND AMERICAN HOMES
520-252-4409	520-447-4454	520-412-2204	520-399-7923	520-447-4273	844-880-4655	623-303-0659	520-498-4105
6 Floor Plans	11 Floor Plans	6 Floor Plans	28 Floor Plans	3 Floor Plans	14 Floor Plans	10 Floor Plans	8 Floor Plans

PIMA COUNTY District 4 Update

The Latest from Pima County District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy



Once again, the policy priority differences between my colleagues and myself surfaced in sharp relief during an October Board of Supervisors meeting.

There was a rarely seen, interesting agenda item entitled, “Potential Uses of Additional Fiscal Year 2025/26 Fund Balance for the FY 2026/27 Projects and Programs.” This is a formalized title for “Hey, we’ve found some extra money left-over! Let’s see how we can spend it!”

There seemed to be some sort of a stampede to come up with novel and unique ideas to spend this extra taxpayer revenue and my first reaction, as always, was, “Why do we need to spend it at all, and if we have to, why don’t we see how we can direct it to fixing our roads?” Always cognizant of the fact that my Board colleagues do not share my enthusiasm for county road repair and that such an idea would not gain traction, so to speak, amongst them, I took a close look at how the County Administrator suggested the extra funds be used.

Her proposals couched in those categories seemed to have merit. Of the roughly $13M in residual budget, three divisions were designated to be the recipients of the overage: Pima County Employee Investment - $8.97M, the One Pima Safety Initiative - $2.52M and Expansion of Court Operations to Accommodate Additional Judges - $1.9M. While the last two areas seemed acceptable, the Employee Investment plan caught my eye.

As a former long-time business owner, I know and understand just how difficult it is to attract, train and retain employees. Pima County has a significant shortage and need for certain employees, particularly in what can be referred to the skilled and specialized areas such as electricians, HVAC, construction, plumbing, equipment operators and other very focused job functions. Unfortunately, these neglected and most important job categories also receive some of the lowest compensation and benefits, while those same county employees are tasked with the toughest and most physically demanding responsibilities.

The County Administrators offerings seemed to address employee issues in an outdated manner and I offered what I thought would be an innovative and novel approach as an added benefit, that Pima County contribute $250 to Invest America Accounts - seeded at opening with $1K from the federal government - for the children of Pima County employees, matching computer icon Michael Dell.

Invest America Accounts can be used by the beneficiary at age 18 for continuing education, starting a business, purchasing a home, or be left untouched to compound as a retirement account versus the traditional 529 Plan which is restricted to qualifying higher education purposes.

Unfortunately, my colleagues didn’t embrace the benefits of Invest America Accounts and they batted away the whole idea as if it were a pesky fly, and that’s too bad. To create financial opportunity, with such a small initial investment, and for those would not normally have the knowledge or the flexibility to have access to such wealth accumulation and financial literacy, seemed like a no-brainer to me.

Normally, I probably would have

"Steve Christy" continued on page 4

VUSD Update

VAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Latest from Vail School District Superintendent John Carruth



When an entire community is focused on maintaining a high quality culture filled with healthy relationships among students, staff, parents, and the larger community, exceptional results are possible.

There are many measures that indicate the quality of our schools. One of the most public measures is released every year in early November by the Arizona State Board of Education. By the time this article hits your mailbox, the State Board of Education will have confirmed that the Vail School District will have achieved an historic number of “A” rated schools. Vail’s students improved significantly over already outstanding results from last year!

VUSD tracks its data closely, and based on the criteria approved by the State Board of Education as of this writing, I’m thrilled to share that:

- VUSD will earn a district-wide 3.95 GPA… an increase of .14
-
- VUSD has steadily increased its GPA the last three years from 3.76 in 2024 to 3.81 in 2025, to 3.95 this year
-
- Of Vail’s 22 grade eligible schools, 21 will be earning an “A”. One will earn a “B”.

It is too early to tell where these rankings will place Vail among districts across Arizona, however, this GPA would have ranked Vail as the #1 performing district in the state last year among districts with ten or more schools!

Further, national ACT test scores were released in October. The ACT is a standardized college admissions test that measures high school students’ skills in English, math, reading, and science and is designed to measure a student’s college readiness. The ACT is the official high school state test, so 100% of Arizona’s juniors take it.

Vail’s students have shown continual and steady improvement on the assessment in every category! On the test with a scoring scale of 1-36, Vail has increased its composite score average by 0.6 points over the last four years. Vail’s students also outperformed the state composite score average by 2.6 points as well as national composite average by 1.1 points. State averages have remained flat, and national averages have declined.

The Vail Unified School District is clearly delivering on its mission: “to provide parents with safe and nurturing school communities where their children can obtain a quality education.”

For more numbers and charts on Vail’s data, be sure to visit the district’s new data informational site on VUSD’s website. Vail has now built a new tool to aid in easily sharing the data that drives its instructional practices and decisions in a public and transparent manner.

District test scores, GPA’s, and school letter grades are just a few measures of excellence. By every measure, including school labels, Vail’s children are receiving a quality education. What makes Vail special? It is the combination of outstanding educators, hard-working students, supportive families, and a community that truly lives our motto, “Where Education Is a Community Effort.”

Strong Communities produce Strong Schools!

"John Carruth" continued on page 7

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

GREATER VAILCHAMBER UPDATE

The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls, President / CEO



Different Perspectives, Shared Possibilities

Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce

What makes a community strong? Is it the buildings we construct, the businesses we welcome, or the opportunities we create? Perhaps it is something less visible but equally important: our ability to appreciate different perspectives while recognizing the things we share.

Every community is shaped by people with different experiences, priorities, and ideas about the future. Some see opportunity where others see challenges. Some embrace change, while others value preserving the familiar. Neither perspective tells the entire story, and both can contribute something meaningful to the conversation.

In their book Getting to Yes, Roger Fisher, William Ury, and Bruce Patton introduce an important principle: understanding the interests behind someone's position can help people discover common ground. Their work reminds us that disagreement does not necessarily mean we are working toward different goals.

Consider something as simple as planning a family gathering. One person focuses on the budget, another on the menu, and someone else on making sure everyone feels included. Each approaches the occasion differently, yet everyone hopes for a memorable experience. The gathering becomes better because those perspectives are considered together. Communities are not so different.

As our Greater Vail area continues to grow and evolve, we have opportunities to learn from one another. Our business owners, educators, families, community organizations, and neighbors each bring valuable experiences to the table. Their contributions help us see possibilities we might otherwise overlook.

Of course, understanding does not require agreement. We can respect someone's perspective without adopting it. We can ask thoughtful questions without challenging someone's intentions. And we can recognize that progress is not always measured by how quickly something happens, but sometimes by how thoughtfully we approach it.

Perhaps one of the most valuable habits we can practice is replacing the question, "Why don't they see it my way?" with "What might I learn from the way they see it?"

That small shift can transform conversations, strengthen relationships, and create room for ideas that might not emerge otherwise. Our community will continue to change, just as communities always have. What remains within our control is how we listen, communicate, and treat one another along the way. We do not need identical perspectives to appreciate a shared sense of belonging.

After all, the richness of a community comes not from everyone thinking alike, but from the many different people who call it home. Stronger Connections. Stronger Community.

At the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce, we believe strong communities begin with meaningful connections. Through business

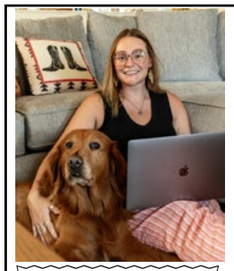
"Dr. Denise Bowls" cont. on page 7

CHAIRMAN, NATURAL RESOURCES ENERGY & WATER
VICE CHAIRMAN, RULES LAND, AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

GAIL GRIFFIN
MEMBER, DISTRICT 19

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
1700 W. WASHINGTON STREET, STE. H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844

CAPITOL: (602) 926-5895
TOLL FREE: 1(800) 352-8404
ggriffin@azleg.gov



Copper Dog
Property Management

- Veteran-owned • Husband & Wife Team • Proudly serving our Military & Veteran community
- Flat-rate pricing—no percentage surprises
- Full service property management OR tenant placement & you manage
- Serving the greater Tucson area
- Honest communication • No corporate runaround • Operated by someone who truly loves real estate

NEW CLIENT SPECIAL! Mention this AD for **$15 off your first 6 months of property management fees** with 1 year contract

(520) 634-8595
Randi@copperdogpm.com
copperdogpm.com

Academy Villas

Assisted Living and Memory Care
Living Well with Assistance



A warm, intimate community offering compassionate care in a peaceful desert setting. Now welcoming new residents.

13775 E Langtry Lane, Tucson, Az. 85747

(520) 647-7500 | academyvillas.org

"Steve Christy" continued from pg 1

supported all of the County Administrator's recommendations, but without my Invest America Account plan included, I could not. I would be voting against my own proposal.

Perhaps you might consider starting an Invest America Account for your children or grandchildren. What a great way to give a child a head start in learning to save and invest, understand the power of compound interest, and in a relatively short time - at age 18 to have potentially several hundred thousand dollars to embark on their journey into adult life.

Later in the meeting, there was discussion of an item our office placed on the agenda entitled "Equitable Funding of Regional Chambers of Commerce". It was an effort to make the previously announced funding of $25,000 to the four regional chambers from Project Blue land sale proceeds more equitable by increasing the allocations to $100,000 each, after the amount awarded to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was increased to $250,000.

When I moved the item's approval, a substitute motion was made to focus money on small business support like grants and comparable to what the Hispanic Chamber is doing with its funding, which failed on a split 2-3 vote, and the original proposal then failed 1-4. This was very disappointing, and I am confident the Greater Vail Chamber of Commerce would have utilized the additional funding to enhance its programs and offer small business grant opportunities.

My priorities remain infrastructure, road improvements, public safety, and economic development, with room for innovation in achieving them. Sadly, my colleagues lack that capacity or flexibility. We will persist in our advocacy for our community, and yes, I love being your Supervisor.

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







A BIG THANK YOU to Northwest Medical Center and Rincon Wireless! We are grateful for your generous sponsorship and continued investment in the Vail School District Foundation. Your support helps us create more opportunities for our students, empower our educators, and make a lasting impact in our schools. We are lucky to have amazing community partners like you who believe in the power of education and help our students succeed.

Through the Vail School District Foundation's classroom grant program, we help bring teachers' ideas to life by providing funding for innovative projects, hands-on learning experiences, and resources that inspire students. We are excited to share that, in partnership with PostNet, we recently awarded a large grant to Desert Sky Middle School for a weight room refresh! This investment will help provide students with an improved space to build strength, develop healthy habits, and grow their confidence. We are thankful for partners like PostNet who help us turn great ideas into real opportunities. Together, we're making a BIG impact in our classrooms!

POSTNET

NORTHWEST MEDICAL CENTER HOUGHTON

RINCON WIRELESS



MOUNTAIN VIEW
ANIMAL CLINIC & PET HOTEL

MOUNTAIN VIEW
ANIMAL CLINIC & PET HOTEL

CALL AHEAD
URGENT CARE
EXTENDED HOURS & SATURDAYS

Wellness & Senior Exams | Radiographs | Surgery / Dentistry
Laser Therapy | Pet Boarding

Where your pets are family

13750 E. Success Dr.
Vail, AZ 85641

(520) 762-0455

thevailvet.com

YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL SHOP

BIG SAVINGS.
EXPERT SERVICE.

Honest Service. Quality Repairs. Fair Prices.

$25 OFF
LABOR ON ANY SERVICE
OF $250+

$50 OFF
LABOR ON ANY SERVICE
OF $500+

$75 OFF
LABOR ON ANY SERVICE
OF $1000+

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!
Don't miss out on this incredible offer.

We offer Tires too!





HONEST SERVICE.
STRONGER COMMUNITIES.
THAT'S THE AVERY'S AUTO PROMISE.

CALL OR TEXT
520-574-1600

9025 E. Camino Abril, Suite 3
Tucson, AZ 85747

Shop supplies, fees, and taxes extra. Cannot combine with any other offer. Must present coupon to redeem.

VAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Discovering Vail's History

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

Continued from August 2026 Vail Voice… "We all worked hard. Most of the students had never attended a two-room school before and their curiosity never ceased! Among the classroom decorations, I had a life-sized plaster of paris bust of handsome Mozart, the musician, on a shelf. The children were very proud of this and always spoke of it as 'Miss Van Buskirt's man.' Very flattering! The classroom was filled with paintings and cuttings made by the pupils. This was especially the case at Christmas time and Easter when the walls of the box car fairly bloomed."

"Scarlet fever broke out among the pupils, and while it was in progress, the most active boy in the whole school was confined with 'fever.' When the other pupils returned and he did not, I investigated and found that, instead of scarlet fever, his leg was swollen with blood-poisoning that had been caused by the explosion of a fusee—a signal flare—picked up from the railroad track. I hurried him to the hospital in Tucson, but it was too late. Lalo died and was buried with many little trinkets and paper flowers tucked around him."

"Many hobos left the long trains at Vail. I fed several each day in return for cutting wood and odd jobs. My brother had always insisted on my keeping a "45" loaded and ready for use. For this I was thankful one night."

"The moon turned the earth to white. The air was very cold and still. A train passed on its way west and awakened me from a sound sleep. I heard three voices speaking in good English. They came toward my box car and—horrors! How I sat on the edge of that bed with my six-shooter cocked as they tried to break in the frail door at my head—not two feet from where I sat in the cold. I was afraid to let them know that I was alone and the rest of the village was too far away to hear a scream if I gave one. I sat silent and desperate, ready to shoot once into the ceiling to frighten them first. The door was stronger than I had thought. They gave it up and went around to the school room door. Then they gave up and went away but returned in a few minutes. I had conquered a tiny speck of my terror by this time and decided to call out "Jack" an imaginary creature as if he were in the school room, and then to shoot if that did not stop them. I could shoot straight if I needed to. That thought was no comfort, for I could see myself in the court room on trial for shooting straight. I did not need to shoot, however, and spent the rest of the night listening for a return and for morning."



The Vail Boxcar School is to the left of the 'new' schoolhouse in this c1939 photo.



Carmen Leon who wrote a letter to Miss Van Buskirk is second from the right.

"I told Mrs. Schley, 'our postmistress, about it first, "one thing encouraged me," I said, "It was their speaking English." She looked at me for a minute and then said, "I should think that would make you more afraid." Something to think about! She had lived in the village of Vail for nearly 20 years."

We have this snapshot of life in the Village of Vail because of an intrepid youngster, Carmen Leon. In 1939, Carmen wanted to learn more about the history of her community and school. With the support of her 4H Club leader, Carmen took the initiative and wrote to Kate Van Buskirk who had taught school in Vail in 1922. What a treasure that letter is. It shows the caring of teachers for their students, that young people have interest in and care about where they live, and take initiative. This window into our past also shows that no time was perfect. That along with the caring, shared experiences and joy, there was sickness, death, and crime.

Like Carmen's 4H leader, we, at Vail Preservation Society (VPS), are purposeful about encouraging youth to be active participants in learning about, preserving, and sharing their local stories. This is one important way that each generation carries the torch for the next. Learn more about VPS at vailpreservationsociety.org, on Facebook, or search "Vanished Vail" on YouTube.

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.



Newest Self Storage Facility in Rincon Valley
Rincon Valley Super Storage
14150 E. Old Spanish Trail Rd.
Vail, AZ 85641 | (520) 861-3222
RINCON VALLEY SUPER STORAGE
www.rinconvalleystorage.com

SANTA RITA Family Dentistry
Strong Smiles Start Here



Full-Service Care, Honest Treatment Plans,
Bilingual Team and Same-Day Appointments.
www.santaritadentalaz.com | (520) 762-0123
55 E Tallahassee Dr, Corona De Tucson (between Argenziano's & the Fire Station)

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

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!**

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.

Dear Editor,

A recent zoning meeting was held for a Type 1 Conditions change. A SR zoning area near Old Spanish Trail & Irvington Rd. A rural area in the buffer zone around the Saguaro Park. A 10 acre parcel in a residential area is for sale. They want to change the zoning under Type 1 conditions to put in a veterinary large animal hospital. A large building, with arenas and lights and approximately 13 employees. Traffic, noise, animal & medical waste, animal infections and disease. A wildlife corridor runs through the property. There is an equestrian center across the road built 20+ years ago. But everything else is single family residents in the SR area. County does not maintain the roads as we all know. They stopped maintaining the road to the south, so the residents have to maintain that ourselves. Many of us spent years in our homes in this area. Now the county wants to change the zoning for a commercial use, because it will serve the equestrian center. Neighbors voiced their objections but the Administrator ruled against us. Why is it that the local government will not listen and serve the residents of Tucson & Pima Co. They only want to serve commercial projects, I guess for higher paying taxes. Can you imagine living right next door or behind a large animal hospital? The county seems to think it's ok.

Lois E Bowen

Dear Editor,

A band of minstrels arrived at a small town on a winter night. The minstrels loved entertaining audiences with singing, dancing, and bits of magic and acrobatics.

But as they prepared for tonight's show, they felt discouraged. Only a handful of tickets had been sold, and the falling snow would, undoubtedly, keep others away. Perhaps they should cancel the show.

However, since some had already purchased tickets, the minstrels agreed to go on with the show. Though most of the minstrels felt discouraged, they did their best to entertain the sparse audience, filling the hall with beautiful harmony, delightful dances, astonishing magic, and thrilling acrobatics.

After the show, they congratulated one another on each person's fine work, then embarked upon the hard conversation. Could they dare to continue the work they loved, with so little money coming in? Their gloomy discussion was interrupted by a knock on the door. A messenger delivered a note and a package. The note read, "Thank you for tonight's show. I laughed until my cheeks ached. My soul was refreshed by your entertainment. Though I tried to keep my identity secret, I fear someone alerted you that I was in the audience. I hope the gold coins I am gifting to you will enable you to provide entertainment for years to come." It was signed, "Your King." The minstrels looked to one another in shock and delight!

Though we, too, may feel discouraged at times, our God is watching us. Whatever we do, when it is done with integrity and love, God delightedly says to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servants."

Tom Tripp

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

CORONA CARES

Gratitude in Action: Corona Cares Honors Seniors and Volunteers

In this season, November is a time for gratitude, and Corona Cares is celebrating the seniors it serves and the volunteers who make its mission possible. The organization's work reflects the values of compassion, community, and service.

Corona Cares also reminds residents that the holiday season can be challenging for older adults experiencing loneliness or mobility limitations. Volunteers help ensure seniors stay connected and supported during this time. Partnerships include working with American Legion Post 109 to ensure each senior is provided a Thanksgiving Dinner and with the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops 770 to ensure each senior is provided a Christmas Tree/Wreath and adorning holiday decorations.

Community members are invited to consider volunteering or donating to support holiday outreach efforts.

By Ellie Abraham

"John Carruth" cont. from page 2

Congratulations to each of you, for the role you play to ensure Vail's children receive a high quality education. Each of you owns a piece of this continued success.

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.

"Dr. Denise Bowls" cont. from page 3

advocacy, collaboration, education, and community partnerships, we work to create opportunities for businesses and residents to thrive. Whether you are a business owner, community partner, or resident, we invite you to connect with us, participate in our programs, and discover how supporting your local Chamber helps strengthen the community we all call home.

Connect. Engage. Grow. Visit www.greatervailchamber.com to learn more.

Dr. Denise Bowls
President/CEO



November—encore

Thirty-two summers ago, the most important event in my academic life took place when Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 collided with Jupiter in what turned out to be one of the most spectacular collisions our civilization has ever witnessed. It was the second most important event in my entire life; the first one, by the way, was meeting and marrying Wendee. I have written about this comet and this event many times, and until now I believed that the discovery adventure was complete.

It wasn't.

In November of that same year, 1994, Richard Thompson, then a geology student at the University of Arizona, was exploring the ancient rock structures in the Whetstone Mountains in southeast Arizona just 19 miles from where I now live. Like most intelligent children, Rich had 0developed an interest in dinosaurs as a child, and that curiosity was seriously strengthened by his reading of Michael Chrichton's novel Jurassic Park, which brought the world of dinosaurs to life for him. He began a program of exploration in the Whetstone mountains, ascending up desperately steep and dangerous rises in search of fossils. He stumbled across some, and a lot of petrified wood. Noting that there seemed to be few large fossils there, he was impressed by the abundance of cretaceous sedimentary rocks in these rugged crags.

On that autumn day Rich sighted some bone chips along the side of a steep ridge. Some of these were uncommonly large. Finding more of these chips that day grew the excitement within him as he continued his hike. Eventually he reached a very rough area close to the top of the ridge. No more bone chips. At the top of the ridge he found a sandstone bluff. Over the course of Earth's geologic history since the late Cretaceous period some ninety million years ago, uplift caused layers of rock to be distorted so vastly that they became nearly vertical. The exposed layers made it nearly impossible to allow searches for more bone chips. Rich turned his head towards the right, and he suddenly encountered a large fraction of a pelvis, larger than his head. Near the pelvis, Rich saw three large ribs, and to the right of the pelvis he saw more large bone fragments. He yelled towards a colleague who was with him, "This is a megafind!"



One needs to look prudently to make out this Sonorasaurus Thompsoni specimen. Photograph reproduced by permission of the Arizona-Sonora desert museum through its director of Conservation Education and Science, Dr. Debra Colodner.

It didn't take long before he and others at the University of Arizona's Geology department and the Desert Museum, settled on the evidence that Rich had discovered a new species of big Cretaceous dinosaur. The specimen was about 27 feet high and 49 feet long. Eventually the genus name Sonorasaurus was officially adopted, and the particular specimen was given the species name Sonorasaurus Thompsoni in honor of the geologist who discovered it.

There is more. Jax Weldon, of Phoenix, was younger than 11 years old when he launched a campaign to have his home state of Arizona have a state dinosaur. He reasoned that Sonorasaurus Thompsoni, whose only specimen was discovered in Arizona, would help the state's tourist industry if it could become Arizona's state dinosaur.

In September 2017, Augustynolophus was declared the official state dinosaur of neighboring California. He believed that to remain competitive with California as a tourist lure, Arizona needed a state dinosaur as well, to remain viable with California, and that Richard Thompson's dinosaur would be an ideal candidate. With bipartisan support, then Governor Doug Ducey signed a bill declaring Sonorasaurus the state dinosaur on April 10, 2018.

Rich's find turned his life around. He studied mineralogy at the University of Arizona, lectured there for a large number of years, and after completing a postdoc, worked as a liaison with Congressman Raúl Grijalva in Washington.

On October 3, 2026, Rich and I drove the difficult terrain that ended with a hike up the steep and forbidding hills. The closer we got to the quarry, the eons and geologic periods faded away and we were standing in the ancient topography of Earth's Cretaceous period. We did stumble across some interesting samples of petrified wood. Because I grew a little dizzy, I did not make it to the quarry that day but I did witness the magnificent Arizona scenery that surrounds the discovery site. I imagined seeing Sonorasaurus dinosaurs stalking about, munching on the branches of the trees, and describing their history in brilliant lectures, poetry, and mathematical equations. Although Sonorasaurus resembles the famous Brontosaurus, that classic dinosaur did not survive the end of the Jurassic period. Sonorasaurus was a Cretaceous animal that died out about 92 million years ago, not quite as large as Brontosaurus

"Skyward" continued on page 22

"Angel Tree Program" continued from page 1

real, positive difference in a child's life.

How You Can Help

Becoming an Angel is simple, flexible, and deeply rewarding. We provide each sponsor with a wish list created by a specific child, detailing their clothing sizes, likes, and favorite things. We ask sponsors to provide one need, one want, clothing, hygiene products and stocking stuffers from that list.

You can support the program by sponsoring an individual child or family, by making a general donation for unsponsored children, or by giving essential items like hoodies, running shoes, hygiene products, and gift cards

Gifts are dropped off to schools unwrapped and labeled with an assigned anonymous Angel number on or before December 7th, 2026.

If your family is experiencing a difficult time and you need help providing holiday gifts or basic necessities for your children, please know that you are not alone and your community is here for you. Whether you want to sponsor an child/ren, coordinate a corporate donation, or request assistance for your family, please contact us directly:

- Contact: Jill Wells, Family Resource Coordinator
- Email: wellsji@vailschooldistrict.org
- Phone: 520-221-9201

Life can throw unexpected challenges our way, but we are all in this together. Thank you for keeping the giving spirit of Vail alive and helping us spread a little holiday cheer!

By Jill Wells

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

Want a plant that blooms all winter?

When most plants are looking dormant and wintery our Mexicali rose fairy duster will be in full bloom November and December!

This plant gets about 4ft tall by 4ft wide, and is a pollinator garden star, as it blooms most of the year. Heat and cold tolerant and once established extremely drought resistant. Require little to no pruning. Available now at Civano Nursery retail garden center.



Mexicali Rose Fairy Duster



Blooming in November/December

CIVANO NURSERY

Written by
Mel Shipley
ACNP










Pro Holiday Tip – Delete Stress Get Gift Cards Now!

Give the gift of gardening the holiday season
A Civano Nursery gift card is a gift and a fabulous future outing all in one!

Garden Tips November

- Get your irrigation system ready to be adjusted for cooler weather, do repairs now
- Be sure to have frost cloth ready to cover cold sensitive plants.
- Plant new trees & shrubs now as they will use less water.
- Pot up color arrangements to refresh entrance ways and patios.
- Prune cold hardy deciduous trees once dormant, usually end of the month, watch for warm temps though this is Arizona!

CIVANO NURSERY



SPECIAL COUPON

$5.00 Off over $40.00 coupon code VV540

$10.00 Off over $70.00 coupon code VV1070

We Design, Deliver & Plant

Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per customer. Must have coupon. Not valid on prior sales. Other restrictions apply. Expires Nov 30th, 2026

Civano Nursery 5301 S. Houghton Road, Tucson AZ 85747 Tel: 520-546-9200

Thankful and Grateful

By Chuck Colbath

As we all get busier this time of the year, we may also feel a little overwhelmed, adding the holidays to the usual mix. Here at Bavilon we feel fortunate and grateful we can celebrate the season. On Thanksgiving day after a big meal, John heads in to decorate the salon for the next holiday. Every year he has a new Christmas theme and colors, this year tastefully decorating in gold and white. His thoughtfullness is out of gratitude for our stylists and our clients, and his love for the town we live in. He enjoys bringing the season in for all of us to enjoy.

When the pilgrims invited the indigenous natives to the first Thanksgiving, it was out of an effort to share this great land with those original settlers, who didn't exactly know what to think of their new neighbors! Sharing in the spiirit of the season makes everyone's lives a little brighter, in the true meaning of the season.

At Bavilon, our estabished, talented stylists have somethng in common; they are all truly great folks - each one is so positive and wonderful to spend time with. When I am there, I watch in amazement and when I leave, I feel uplifted, realizing the laughter is genuine, and I am grateful.

Our "premier" level donations to the Vail School District Foundation are another way we show the town we are thankful to be a part of it and grateful for our clients who make that possible.

Training as a team, as we do, is something that is becoming less common, and not just in our industry. I am happy to report that teamwork is alive and well at Bavilon. Our goal is to have the best experience, the best result, and we are all there to support each other, which ensures the consistent service our clients have come to expect.

We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and remember to book your holiday hair early!

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.

Please stop in for a look! We look forward to the opportunity to please. Our stylists' profiles, full menu with fair up-front pricing, and easy on-line booking are all at Bavilonsalon.com. Or call us at (520) 762-8787 and we will be happy to assist you.

Better care, Better hair!





ReSources
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

From the Fairway to Feeding Families: The Giving Continues

As we enter this season of gratitude, Greater Vail Community ReSources is celebrating the generosity of our community. Our annual ReSources Golf Challenge, held October 24 at Forty Niner Country Club, brought together golfers, businesses, and community supporters for a day of fun, friendly competition, and a shared commitment to fighting hunger in Greater Vail. Together, approximately $23,000 was raised for the Vail Food Bank!

We are especially grateful to our Premier Sponsors, Vulcan Materials and The Adkinson Family Trust. Their generosity reflects the incredible spirit of giving that makes our community so special.



Bruce Goodman, James Aguilar and Stuart Katz



Bob Snodgrass, Sandy Snodgrass, Jill Pilling, and Brian Pearson

A heartfelt thank-you also goes to Rite Way Heating & Cooling, our Beverage Sponsor, and our Gold Sponsors: TLC Telecom, Arka Express/Arka Logistics, John Winchester for AZ State House, and TMC Rincon. These partnerships help turn a great day of golf into meaningful support for local families facing food insecurity.

Of course, a little friendly competition deserves recognition! Congratulations to our 2026 contest winners: Senior Longest Drive: Bruce Goodman. Men's Longest Drive: James Aguilar. Women's Longest Drive: Jill Pilling. Men's Closest to the Pin: Stuart Katz. Women's Closest to the Pin: Jill Pilling.

Congratulations also to our winning teams! Open Division Champions: Bob Snodgrass, Sandy Snodgrass, Jill Pilling, and Brian Pearson. First Responders Division Champions: Gary Childs, John Ross, Kurt Neubert, and Brian Sorell.

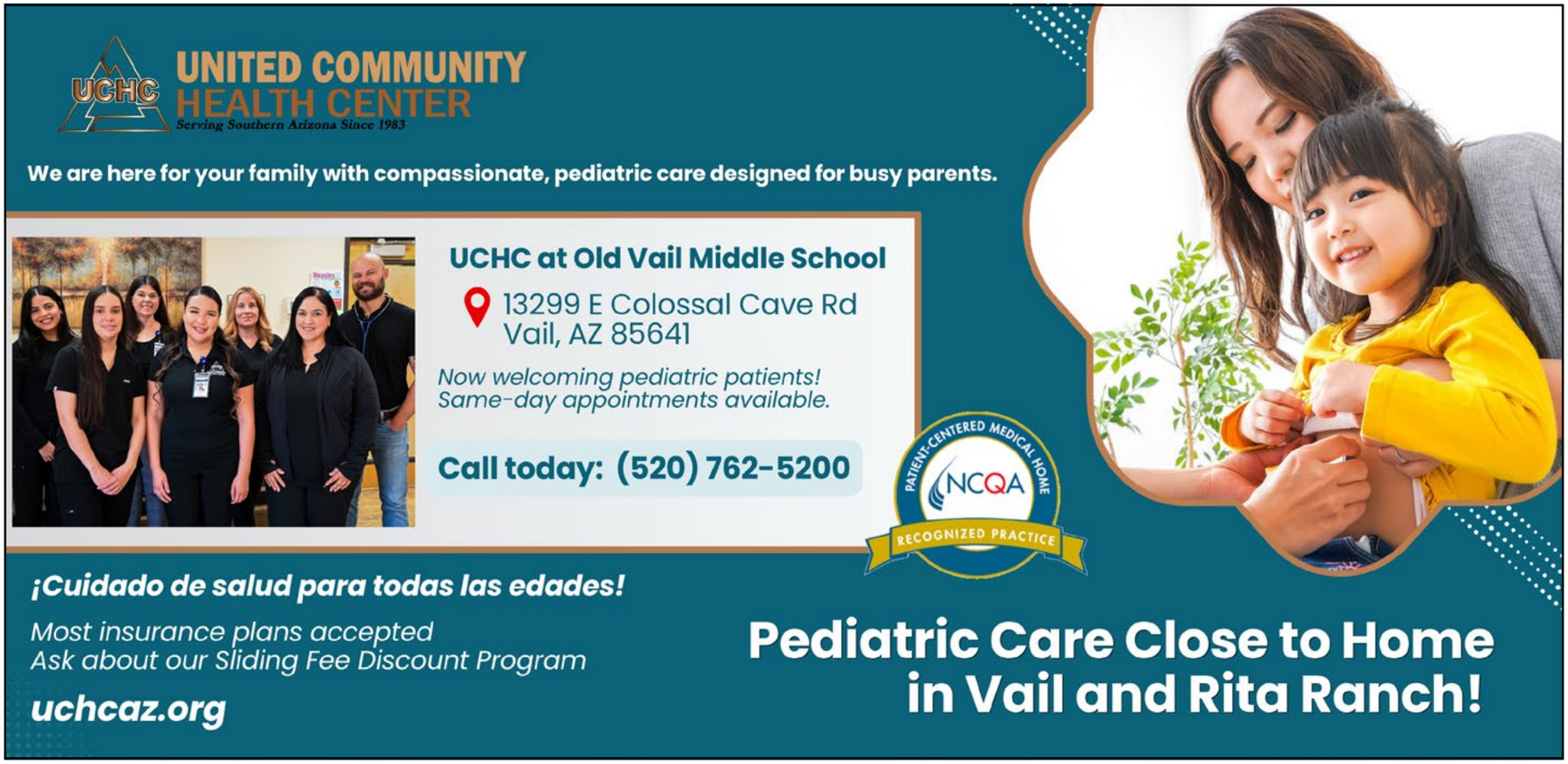
While our golf tournament is an important fundraiser, we need additional community support. The need for food assistance in Greater Vail continues to grow. Your financial support helps ReSources keep food on the table for families, provide weekend meals for children, and ensure our homebound older adults receive the nutrition they need. Please consider making a year-end gift to help us continue this important work.

For those age 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA may offer a tax-smart way to give. Consult your financial advisor to learn if this option is right for you.

Every gift, regardless of size, helps feed our neighbors. Donate or learn more about giving through your IRA at www.ResourcesVail.org.

Callie Tippett 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.





need some support?
individualized *whole-person* therapy for local teens, parents/couples and families.
improved mental, emotional and physical well-being... for good.
call today for your free consultation
www.mindfulvisioncounseling.com
860.249.1720
mindful vision counseling

Before You Wrap That Phone: A Parent's Guide to Teens and Screens

The box is small, but the decision isn't. For many Arizona families, this holiday season brings a teen's first phone or a big upgrade. A little planning now can prevent months of arguments later.

Before you buy, ask three questions:

- **Why now?** What need will this phone meet?
- **What are the rules on day one?** Agree on screen-free times, like meals and bedtime, before the box is opened.
- **Where does it charge at night?** Charging outside the bedroom protects sleep.

Write your plan down together. For a copy of Mindful Vision Counseling's *Before You Wrap That Phone* parent–teen questionnaire, email support@mindfulvisioncounseling.com.

Teens with ADHD often need more structure, not more willpower. Timers, app limits, and regular check-ins are support, not punishment.

Watch for signs a phone is taking more than it gives: poorer sleep, irritability when it's put away, or pulling back from friends and activities. These signs don't mean something is wrong, but they're worth a conversation.

If those conversations feel stuck, you don't have to figure it out alone. Our team at Mindful Vision Counseling supports teens and families in person in Vail and Tucson, and by telehealth across Arizona. Visit **mindfulvisioncounseling.com** or call **(860) 249-1720**.

By A. Whitney Shea, LPC-S, ADHD-CCSP
Founder, Mindful Vision Counseling



Climate Review



A Look Back

September Climate Report

June – August and Full Summer and June – September Full Monsoon Climate Report

For the individual summer and monsoon months and the entire summer and monsoon season, please see the data below. Unlike the spring when Tucson recorded its warmest since records began, the summer and monsoon was "only" the 6th warmest. Rainfall varied greatly throughout southeast Arizona and the Tucson metro area as is typical. Parts of the Tucson area were below average, average, and above average. Even though I had more rain than the airport this summer / monsoon, I was slightly below average and the airport slightly above average since my average is about 1.5-2.0" more than what the airport receives for the summer / monsoon. The hot spots were the far west side, Dove Mountain, and the Lakeside Park areas using sources such as rainlog.org and the Pima County Flood Control District rain data. The border areas of Sasabe, Nogales, Sierra Vista and Bisbee all had above average rainfall.



One very notable hot spot was the Tucson Estates area which had around 15" of rain this monsoon. Also, the Pima County Flood Control gauge at Marana recorded over 10" of rain this monsoon and only averages around 4." At the time of this writing on October 16th, October rainfall is looking promising.

Earlier this year the Climate Prediction Center predicted above average rainfall for the summer, fall, and winter. My next article will not occur until the new year when I report on fall, 2026.



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.

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

ADOPTABLE PETS ON THE EASTSIDE!

¡MASCOTAS EN ADOPCIÓN AL ESTE DE LA CIUDAD!





Eastside PACC Adoption Center

Visit us at - *Visítanos en el*

7225 E. Broadway

friends of PACC

PIMA COUNTY
ANIMAL CARE CENTER



KINDERGARTEN *round ups*

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 18

FOR THE 2027/28 SCHOOL YEAR

- **Acacia Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 12955 E Colossal Cave Road
- **Civano K8** - @ 5:00 pm - 10625 E Drexel Road
- **Copper Ridge Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 17650 S Canyon Edge Trail
- **Cottonwood Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 9950 Rees Loop
- **Desert Willow Elementary School -** @ 5:30 pm - 9400 E Esmond Loop
- **Esmond Station K8 -** @ 5:00 pm - 9400 S Atterbury Wash Way
- **Mesquite Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 9455 E Rita Road
- **Ocotillo Ridge Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 10170 S White Lightning Lane
- **Saguaro Creek K8 -** @ 5:00 pm - 8150 S Rocking K Ranch Loop
- **Senita Valley Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 10750 E Bilby Road
- **Sycamore Elementary School -** @ 5:00 pm - 16701 S Houghton Road
- **Vail Academy -** @ 5:00 pm - 7762 E Science Park Drive

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

CONTACT OUR ENROLLMENT CONCIERGE:

520-879-3982

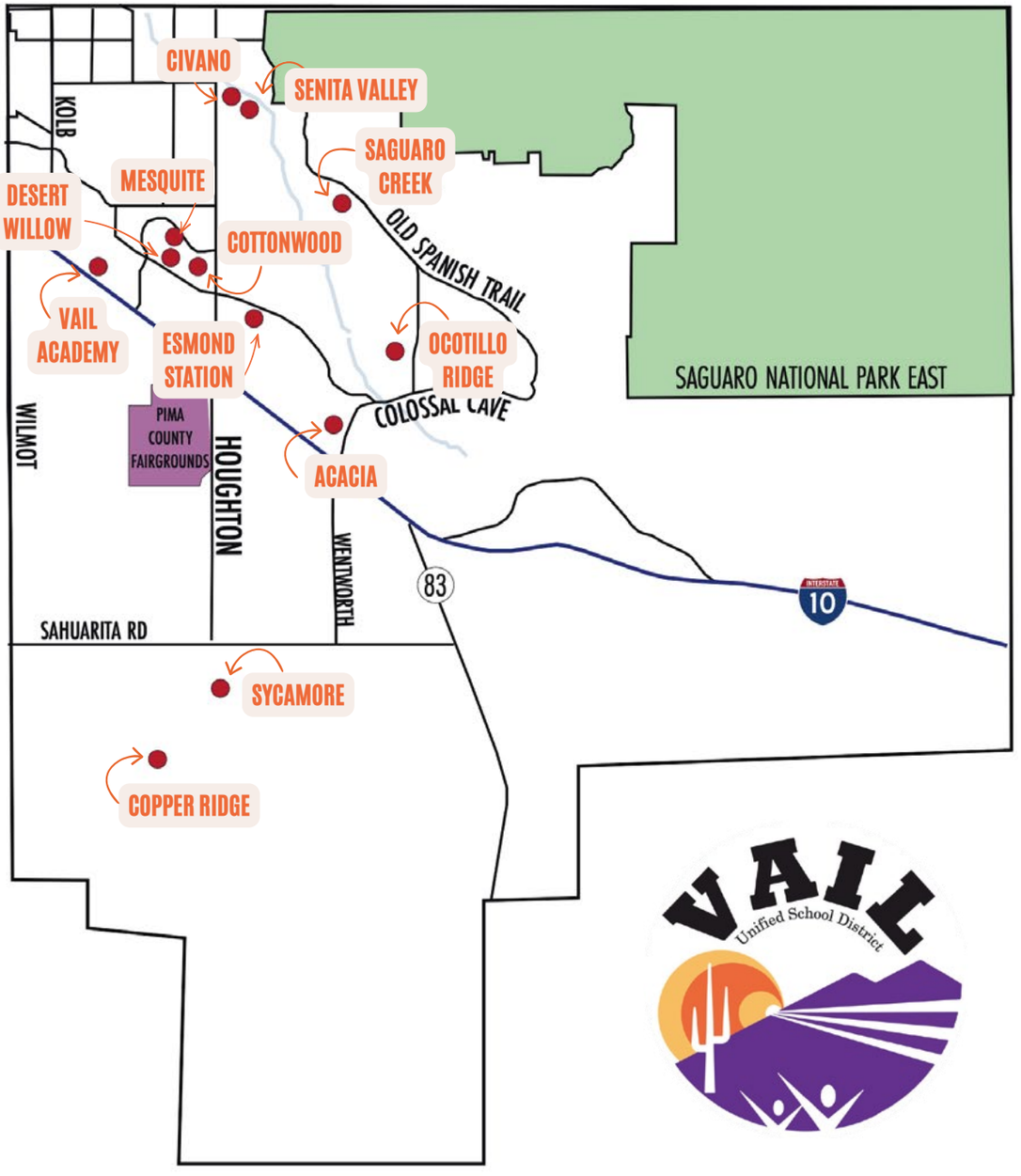
vailschooldistrict.org

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654









Do you or someone you know have a child who will be turning five and heading to Kindergarten next year?

Join us at your neighborhood school for **Kindergarten Roundup** happening across the Vail School District on **November 18, 2026!**

Start your child's educational journey off on the right foot.

The Vail School District is an award winning school district of choice with the **best educational opportunities in the state**! Vail has been recognized locally, statewide, nationally, and even internationally for its outstanding educational programs, staff, and culture. And, Vail is now accepting open enrollment families!

Enroll in the Vail School District today!

THANK YOU VAIL COMMUNITY!

WITH YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, WE ARE THE...

#1 RANKED

SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ARIZONA!

(AMONG DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORKS WITH TEN OR MORE SCHOOLS)

EARNING AN HISTORICALLY HIGH...

3.95 GPA!

VAIL Unified School District

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RELEASED LETTER GRADES TODAY.

#1 VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
3.95 GPA

#2 - 3.92 GPA - Higley Unified School District
#3 - 3.87 GPA - Gilbert Unified School District
#4 - 3.87 GPA - Queen Creek Unified School District
#5 - 3.86 GPA - Basis Charter Networks

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

DAR Daughters of the American Revolution

Cienega Creek Chapter, NSDAR

Moving Forward Through Growth: Supporting Boulder Crest Foundation

Many military veterans and first responders carry the weight of their experiences home with them, often struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the challenges of everyday life.



Sierra (left and Margaret Burkholder (right)

Boulder Crest Foundation is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that serves military service members, veterans, first responders, and their families. As the home of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG), Boulder Crest is a global leader in developing, delivering, studying, and expanding PTG-based programs. Their mission is to transform the way society thinks, feels, and responds to mental health challenges and personal struggles. Through its work, the foundation strives to build a world centered on posttraumatic growth rather than PTSD, diagnosis, dysfunction, or diminished well-being.

In October, members of the Arizona Daughters of the American Revolution participated in the Boulder Crest 5K Run in Sonoita, Arizona. Arizona State Regent Katie Paulsen has established a fundraising goal of $30,000 for the Boulder Crest Foundation during her two-year administration. Members from across the state joined the event, including Cienega Creek Chapter Regent Mrs. Burkholder and State Historian Ms. Hansen, who attended and participated in the annual 5K to support this important cause.



Boulder Crest 5K Run participants

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



Cage-Free Dog Boarding
Never Crowded. Home Environment.
Room to RUN, PLAY & RELAX!
Camp JimmyDog LLC
520-710-6667
Call Today or Visit us at
CampJimmyDog.com

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

Medium Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

Hard Sudoku

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

Solution - No cheating!

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

PERSPECTIVES

A Spirit of Gratitude

I've written many of these articles for this time of year. This year I want to talk about why we should be grateful for our planet and what we can do to help it. As we all know, the planet is dying. Glaciers are melting, water is becoming a luxury instead of a necessity, and animals are going extinct faster than we thought possible before.

This year, with Thanksgiving around the corner, I want to talk about why we should be grateful for the place we live and how we can protect it for hopefully many more years to come. When people hear about the climate crisis, they think it's something we're heading toward, not realizing we are already in it, but there's still a way we can help our planet.

One thing that has been rising in popularity lately is overconsumption. It is the act of a consumer overusing a product or buying more than they need or will use. We see this a lot with today's trends of blind boxes or blind bags, where people buy 20 blind bags to get one character, then toss the rest, or they don't even want the character they thought they wanted in the first place.

We also see overconsumption when people are overstocking on products that they will never end up using because they go out of date, or they buy so many to the point where it just becomes an aesthetic instead of a use.

When we take part in the act of overconsumption, we are causing landfills to get massively larger and at a higher rate.

What can we do to stop this

"Perspectives" continued on page 23



CLEAR VISION FOR THE LIFE YOU LOVE

Good vision is essential in staying active and enjoying the moments that matter most. Our compassionate team of ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians provides everything from comprehensive eye exams to advanced medical and surgical care to help keep your eyes healthy and your vision at its best.

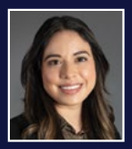
With three convenient locations, including TMC Rincon Health Campus, exceptional eye care is always close to home.


Carmen L. Felix Tacoronte, MD


Karl A. Rosen, MD


Timothy E. Marra, DO


Zachary P. Pfau, OD


Stephanie Burruel, OD

Schedule your appointment today and keep living life with confidence and clarity.

DESERT EYE
ASSOCIATES, LTD.

(520) 327-5677
DesertEye.net

Request an appointment with Dr. Burrel at the TMC Rincon Health Campus:
10350 E Drexel Rd, Suite 230

Or at one of these locations:
1110 N El Dorado Place, Tucson

1150 S Calle de las Casitas, Suite 150, Green Valley

Prior to your visit, please call the office to ensure we are in your insurance network or vision plan.

To place an ad call: 520-490-0654

OpEd

It's depressing to see roads being repaired, and in some cases repaved, while hundreds of homeowners and their children drive on a seriously dangerous road. An example is Houghton Road from the high school to Sahuarita Rd.

If I remember correctly, some 10 years ago the money paid by contractors developing in the Sycamore Canyon area was diverted to finish road construction in Vail, specifically on Colossal Cave Road. The understanding I have after talking to the HOA Management Company (Cadden) who spoke to the district supervisors, those diverted funds were to be returned to our community for Road maintenance. To the best I know our community has not received that money.

Now I must be honest about road maintenance on Sahuarita and Houghton Rd. There has been road patching (pot holes repair) done on Houghton Rd. But, I believe that occurred after several small vehicles were reported missing/lost on Houghton Rd. They were subsequently found in some of the large reported pot holes. There was also road work done in preparation for the Tour de Tucson to impress tour sponsor but when the residents complain the answer is, it's on the RTA schedule and we don't have funding for Houghton Road. So the community suffers, with traffic accidents to include rollovers, collision, due to tail gating, and yes speeding, year, after year, after year. Recently we had a multi-vehicle accident at the high-school caused by people apparently going the wrong way entering and exiting the school. All of that is a serious problem, but it's not the biggest problem. If community leadership really cared they would seriously enforce the speed limit and manage people driving recklessly.

Reckless driving does not only pertain to speeders etc., but to those entering washes when water is flowing. During the last week of September we had one or two swift water rescues requiring the fire departments large ladder unit. This rescue took a while and no one was hurt. Thank God we had no fires that were needed during that time. The question to be asked, is who's fault is it?

The obvious blame rests with the vehicle driver because everyone knows not to enter a wash when water is flowing. This is true except for the person who recently posted a comment on Facebook complaining that Pima County should install road posts that has a number scale showing how deep the water is. Every state has its own "Prize Award Driver" and this person is ours. This latest rain caused significant delays for people trying to get home. People had school kids in their cars, pets, groceries, milk, eggs, meat, etc.Some people were stranded for almost two hours and their food could have spoiled. During the rescue with PCSD vehicles on site people entered the wash both north and south bound with police right there. Why were citations not written?

We have these highways: 83 to Sahuarita Rd, Wentworth to Sahuarita Rd, Houghton Rd to Sahuarita Rd, Wilmont Rd to Sahuarita Rd and Green Valley Sahuarita Rd. These are all viable roadways for people to use to get home, travel to the store to get baby diapers and food and get to the hospital in case of an emergency. When we get heavy mountain rain or multiple days of rain all these roads flood. When flooding occurs drivers enter washes and problem happen either to them or another driver. Consider all these roads mentioned. Why our "smart road experts" did not install some serious drainage under the pavement, specifically on Wilmot since it was just completed. Drainage installed under Wilmot would divert water off the roads and into the fields, if done correctly. Did they not care? Did they run out of black 20 inch plus drainage pipe or concrete piping. Was the engineering group not able to figure our how to contour the road so piping could be installed? Were they too busy to plan correctly or was this type of work above their knowledge level? If that was the case call in the Core of Engineers or give the design to a local high school as an engineer project.

Since we can't fix potholes in a timely manner, here is a wild idea. Have some of the same work crews that pick-up trash and cutting weeds etc., provided by our prison system fill potholes. White collar crime inmates that require minimal monitoring, could be trained and sent out with 1 or 2 armed department of corrections officers. May we should consider unique alternatives such as this.

Hopefully it will assist in getting people think about how to do their jobs better and also serve your community. If this is too hard, then do the right thing for our community and resign.

Looking forward to seeing some responses in the Vail Voice, on Facebook. I want to convey to the county to care about the people they serve.

By John Ryan



1/16 Page Ad Space Available

Advertise Here!

Contact Sales:
Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654

THE VAIL VOICE | thevailvoice.com





Optimist Scholarship Contests

The Heat Optimist Club in the Rita Ranch area is sponsoring two scholarship contests in the 2026-2027 school year. The Essay and Oratorical contests are open to students under 19 as of Oct. 1, 2026, who have not yet completed secondary school. Essays are submitted to the local Heat Club by January 15, 2027. The Heat Club essay winner advances to the AZ District contest. The second scholarship contest is an AZ District Oratorical Contest. Applications are due March 19, 2027. The Heat Optimist Club holds a Club Oratorical contest. The winner advances to the Zone level. Scholarships are awarded to winners at the AZ District, Regional, and World levels of the contests. The student sponsored by the Heat Optimist Club in 2025 won the AZ District contest. He went on to win the Regional and place second at the World Oratorical. His total winnings were $17,550. Information and applications can be found at the Heat Optimist Club website: heatoptimistclub.org

By Marcia Aurand

Why Pests Move Indoors When Vail Cools Off

When temperatures drop in Southern Arizona, we welcome the break from the heat. Unfortunately, so do the pests. Every November, our team at Bill's Home Service hears the same question: "I thought bugs were supposed to slow down during winter."

Why Cooler Weather Drives Pests Indoors

As desert nights get colder, pests seek three things:

1. Warmth: Rodents, spiders, and insects seek shelter in walls, attics, and garages.

2. Food: Pet food, pantry items, and crumbs become easy targets.

3. Water: Leaky pipes, dripping faucets, and pet water dishes attract pests.

Common Fall and Winter Pests in Vail

- Rodents: Mice and rats squeeze through surprisingly small openings. Watch for scratching sounds, droppings, and gnaw marks.
- Scorpions: They don't disappear in winter. Instead, they seek shelter in wall voids, garages, and storage areas.
- Spiders: As crickets, cockroaches, and other insects move indoors, spiders follow their prey.

Keep Your Home Pest-Free This Season

Don't wait for pests to settle in. If you're noticing unwanted visitors this fall, contact Bill's Home Service at 520-346-4564 or visit BillsHomeService.com.

BILL'S HOME
SERVICE COMPANY
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

Pest Control • Weed Control • Termite Service • Home Inspections

Desert-proof your property.



New customers save up to $100 on select termite treatments.

GET COUPONS

Get your coupon.
Scan QR code or
visit bit.ly/4h22N9x

(520) 346-4564

BILL'S HOME
SERVICE COMPANY
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
billshomeservice.com

Family-owned & community trusted since 1964.

PMD Lic. #4320

Please Join us

2026 - 2027

Angels Too Marketplace

Unique Boutique

Handmade
Holiday Crafts, Jewelry, Metal Art,
Baked Goods and more.

SHOP

MasterCard DISCOVER VISA

FREE ADMISSION

OCTOBER SHOW
October 10th & 11th
La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)
Hours:
Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

DECEMBER SHOW
December 5th & 6th
La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)
Hours:
Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

FEBRUARY SHOW
February 27th & 28th
La Paloma Academy
8140 E. Golf Links Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85730
(Golf Links and Pantano)
Hours:
Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday: 11AM - 4PM

Visit us at: www.angelstoomarketplace.com

Events

Every Thursday, 7 p.m.
Vail Al-Anon Family Group Meeting at St. Rita in the Desert Church, 13260 E. Colossal Cave Rd. Lear more at al-anon.org.

Every Friday, 6 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery meeting at Empire High School Library, 10701 E Mary Ann Cleveland Way. Age 18 +.

Every Sunday
Worship with us at Crosspoint Lutheran Church! Sundays at 8:30 am – Blended Worship. 9:40 am – Adult Bible Class & Sunday School. 10:45 am – Contemporary Worship. 2285 E. Sahuarita Rd. www.crosspointlutheranchurch.org

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 a.m.
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

Mon, Nov. 2, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Gordon Nutall, volunteer energy coach for Sustainable Tucson, “The Five Big Energy Decisions That Really Matter.”

Tues, Nov. 3
General Election. For Info: pima.vote

Wed, Nov. 4, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Donna Corbin, former Curator, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Thurs, Fri & Sat, Nov. 5, 6 and 7
Desert Skies annual Flea Market. More info: (520) 749-0521

Fri, Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Oboist Sara Hammelef and pianist Woan Ching Lim.

Sat, Nov. 7, 8 a.m.
Rocking K Veteran's Day 5K and 3K Fun Run / Walk. Saguaro Creek. 8150 S. Rocking K Ranch Loop Rd.

Sat, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Vailfest. Pima County Fair Grounds. greatervailchamber.com

Sat, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.
Walk Today For Women Tomorrow. Esmond Station Regional Park.

Fri, Nov. 6, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Oboist Sara Hammelef and pianist Woan Ching Lim present music for oboe and piano by contemporary composers.

Mon, Nov. 9, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Sarah McCallum, Ph.D., U of A Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Classics.

Sat, Nov. 14, 3-4 p.m.
The Vail Chorale presents their Fall Concert "Exsultate! Jubilate! 15 Years of Joyful Song!" thevailchorale.org

Sun, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.
ASA* Concert: The Vail Chorale presents the 2nd performance of their Fall Concert "Exsultate! Jubilate! 15 Years of Joyful Song!"

Mon, Nov. 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.



Tues, Nov. 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Houghton Road Public Meeting. Sycamore Elementary School. 16701 S Houghton Rd. Learn about our new project on S Houghton Rd.

Wed, Nov. 18, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Megan Kobel, Ph.D. Au.D., U of A Assistant Professor of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences; Director, Vestibular Research Lab, "Your Sixth Sense: What the Inner Ear Teaches Us About Aging Well.”

Fri, Nov. 20, 11 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Diane Van Duerzen and Lisa Otey return to ASA to sing songs and tell stories behind the songs, accompanied by Lisa's powerful and expressive piano playing - jazz, blues, pop & boogie woogie.

Sat, Nov. 21
El Tour de Tucson. eltourdetucson.org

Sat, Nov. 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Rummage & Sale Craft Fair, Cienega Wrestling Boosters, at Cienega HS.

Mon, Nov. 30, 7 p.m.
Messiah Sing-In. Christ Community Church, 530 South Pantano Road (at Kenyon Drive). Celebrating 50 years!

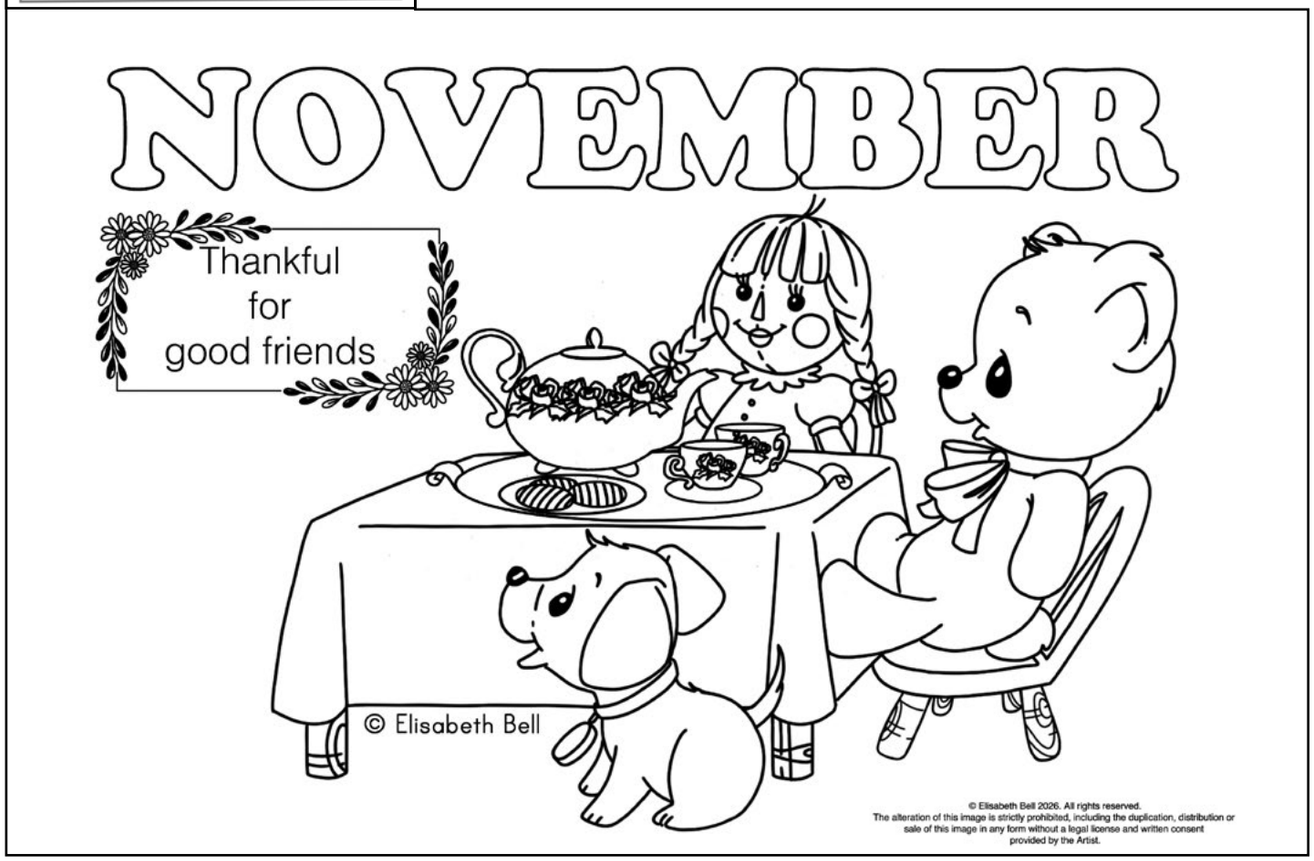
Mon, Nov. 30, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Academy Village resident Bill McCourt, member of the Arizona Senior Academy and Academy Village Boards of Directors, “Bicycling in the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia.”

Fri, Dec. 4, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Mikey and Katie Dunlavey are "The Wild Swans," playing traditional Irish and Celtic folk music with guitar, harmonica, bodhran and uilleann pipes.

Sat, Dec. 5 & 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Unique Botique. Handmade holiday crafts, baked goods, etc. La Paloma Academy 8140 E. Golf Links Rd. See ad on page 20 for times.

Tues, Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: The Arizona Women's Chorus presents their winter concert "Home for the Holidays."

ASA. The Arizona Senior Academy



CLaSSIfieDS

BUSINESS and PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CLEANING SERVICES

2 Guys & A Sponge - Window Cleaning: Interior Exterior Window Cleaning. Screens, Tracks, Mirrors. Licensed, Insured. Prices that won't leave a streak! Ask about our Specials! Tyler 520-260-6360.

Let Maid 4 U Do Your Dirty Work. Residential Cleaning. Serving Vail and Tucson for over 30 years. Fully insured, bonded and provide workman's compensation. Mention this ad and receive $10 off first cleaning. Call Kris 520-647-0929 (Vail). Call Kim 520-336-7509 (Tucson)

Peachy Does It Maid Service: We offer weekly, bi-weekly, tri-weekly, monthly and move-outs. We service Vail, Benson, Green Valley, Sahuarita and Tucson. We have been keeping homes Peachy Clean for over 35 years. Free Estimates. If you want your home cleaned the right way, call Peachy, Does It Maid Service 520-305-1289.

HANDYMAN

Above Handy Services. Tucson licensed handyman services for home repairs, installs, doors, drywall, painting, minor plumbing, minor electrical, maintenance, and improvement projects. Quick, Clean, Done Right. 520-395-7836 aboveazhandy.com dcnoperi@aboveazhandy.com ROC#365-336

Handyman No job too small. Painting exterior and interior, roofs, stucco, sheet rock, doors, woodwork, wooden shelves, hauling. Call Mike at 520-262-5258

Beck's Handyworks - 20 yrs. Experience. New & old construction. Electrical, Plumbing, Drywall & more. Reasonable, Reliable, Excellent references. Work guaranteed. Senior & Military discounts. Call Joe 520-449-9587.

Loren's Handyman and Painting Services. Painting, Drywall repair, tile setting, wood laminate floor install, minor bathroom remodel, minor plumbing repairs, misc. house repairs. Call or text: 520-912-5055

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Civano Exercise Studio Stretch+Strength, Pilates & Aerobics weekday classes (in-studio & Zoom). New Yoga classes (weekday, evening & weekend). See www.tucsonstretch.com, contact Susan 520-270-4440 or tucsonstretch2@gmail.com. In Civano Center, 10501 E.Seven Generations #108.

HELP WANTED

St. Rita in the Desert seeks a pianist to accompany the Tuesday 5:45 pm choir rehearsal and Saturday 5 pm Mass: ~5 hours/week. Stipend available. Contact Nancy CampmanCrofts at music@stritainthedesert.org*disappear.* www.dennisondrejka.com

HOME SERVICES

Tucson Grill Cleaning: for professional BBQ grill cleaning/skilled repairs/pack-rat solutions & seamless installations. Local/award-winning/BBB accredited & 10+ years strong. Book online for $10 off any service @ TucsonGrillCleaning.com, or call 520-245-7967 For A Clean Grill Of Health. Residential/commercial.

Bender Information Technology Services, LLC - Computer need a fix? Better call B.I.T.S. - Bender I.T. Services. Local, friendly, and reliable. Exceptional residential and small business I.T. services. In-home or remote, 24/7. www.benderITservices.com Call 520-200-7415

House Cleaning, Petsitting, Assisted Home Living, Plant Care, Organizing Plus Excellent Refs, 25 + yrs exp. 928-308-6560

PERSONAL SERVICES

Christian lady seeking a couple to be a live-in cook and lighthouse keeping. Have small dogs and willing to relocate. Call Jackie 520-246-6153

Nanny/Babysitting Services
I provide individualized childcare services from my home in Rancho Del Lago. Great references and reasonable pricing, warm family-like atmosphere. I can be reached at 520-834-6611.

Violin Lessons: Private instruction for beginner and intermediate players. Lessons tailored to your skill level and goals, offered at a pace that works for you. Now accepting students in the Vail and Sahuarita area. Call to schedule a consultation: 816-255-9805

STORAGE

Industrial Rental Yards East - Fenced, Gated. Onsite Security Locking Metal Shipping Containers monthly, quarterly, yearly leases Utilities, Facilities Maintained 520-271-1854 6775 East Littletown Rd - littletownenterprises@aol.com.

YARD WORK

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

Junior's yard & Tree Services - Specializing in - Yard & acreage clean up & brush removal - Cactus and Pack Rat Nest Removal - Tree Trimming and Tree Removal - Palm - Mesquite - Pine & Saguaro. Call or text me Jeremiah @ 520 697 0216 "I will make your place look fantastic" Jeremiah W.L. Patten.

Sprinkler & Drip Irrigation Repairs - Irrigation Repair Specialists, System Check-Ups, Valves, Heads, Timers, Leak Detection, Sprinkler & Drip Irrigation Maintenance, Troubleshooting & Repairs, Wiring & Low Pressure Problems .30+ Years of Quality Service Call 520.306.2900

Sunrise Irrigation Since 1984. Owner Tom Daniels. Specialists in installations, repairs, and troubleshooting of sprinkler and drip systems. Email: lindycm@msn.com Phone: 520 882-9929. Licensed and Insured.

Wild Terrain Landscaping: Experienced, Reliable and Affordable. Weeding, cleaning, trimming, gravel. Junk removal/hauling, irrigation installs & service, pre and post emergent spray...and more! Call Eduardo: 520-396-8449. Free Estimates!

Classified Ad Rates: $50 for up to 30 words. $1 additional for each word thereafter. Business Name will be **Bolded**. Additional **Bolding** ($1 per word) is now available. No ALL CAPS or graphics, please. Ad copy is due by the 10th of the month for publication the following month. To place a classified ad, send an email to: **classifieds@TheVailVoice.com**.

"Skyward" continued from page 8

but big enough, about 26 million years before the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event.

One final thought: although the likely Chixulub impact crater was not discovered until the early 1990s, literary artists speculated about it much earlier. A famous line from Alfred Tennyson's masterpiece In Memoriam, published in 1850, described the organic evolution of humanity that survived mass extinctions.
Congratulations, Richard Thompson, for adding new and original knowledge about the evolution of our world, and bringing your dinosaur, probably the only specimen discovered so far, to life.

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.





PADRE'S Post

St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church

Dear Vail Community and Friends,

On behalf of St. Rita in the Desert Parish, I want to thank the Vail community for the generous support you gave our Harvest Festival. Neighbors, families, volunteers, vendors, and friends came together and made the weekend a true celebration of this place we share. Your presence, your help, and your goodwill are gifts we do not take for granted.

As the days shorten and we settle into fall, both the Church and the wider community begin to turn toward Thanksgiving. This season invites us to pause and recognize the many gifts the year has brought: time spent with the people we love, food on the table, work that sustains us, neighbors who make Vail feel like home, and the quiet mercies that often go unnoticed until we slow down long enough to see them.

Gratitude, though, is not meant to stop at our own door. As we give thanks for what we have, we are also called to remember those who have less. The holiday invites us to a generous spirit, and that generosity need not be grand. A kind word of encouragement, a smile offered without hurry, or a helping hand that eases someone's burden for a moment can lighten a suffering we may never fully see. In a season of thanks, these small acts become a way of sharing the abundance we have received.

Thank you again for standing with us at the Harvest Festival and for the many quiet ways you strengthen this community throughout the year. May the weeks ahead be marked by gratitude and by the kindness that turns thanksgiving into care for one another.

By Very Reverend
Alonzo M. Garcia, Dean

El Tour de Tucson

Get ready for the 43rd El Tour de Tucson coming up on Nov. 21.

Close to 11,000 cyclists may be in and around the Tucson area and southern Arizona for the big ride.

We are alerting everyone of the El Tour road closures and delays on Ride Day.

It's important for those on the road to know what to expect and to try to avoid certain areas throughout the day.



VAIL PLUMBING
Licensed Bonded and Insured
ROC CR37 364158
Over 75 years' Industry Experience
520-390-5525
Owned and operated by Allen Schwartzberg
Vail's Local Plumber
Whatever your dilemma, don't hesitate to call.
We can handle anything from little drips to whole home re-pipes and even complex commercial jobs.
www.vailplumbingaz.com
VISA MasterCard BBB Accredited Business
FINANCING AVAILABLE
admin@vailplumbingaz.com

"Perspectives" cont. from page 18

trend? Really think before buying something. If you see something trending on the Internet that you want, give it a day or two and see if you actually want it. Buy products when you're close to running out, instead of overstocking to the point where you have way too many. Be more aware of your buying habits and focus on the things you need instead of the things you want.

It may seem small, but this small impact can really help us in the long run.

My name is Seán Colbert. I am working towards making my passion a reality. I love writing and being able to share that experience with others or telling stories. Writing is so important in the world and I want to be a part of that impact.

Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce

Influencing Vail's Future

"To enhance growth opportunities and advance economic development in the Greater Vail Area."

13105 E Colossal Cave Rd | Vail, AZ 85641 | 520.261.8245



New Members

- Sapphire Solutions and Consulting
- AAA
- Vail Vigilantes Volleyball
- Pima JTED

Renewing Members

- Swaim Associates Ltd
- Diamond Ventures, Inc.
- Rincon Wireless
- The Professional Team at Realty Executives Arizona Territory
- El Grupo Youth Cycling
- Pima Community College
- Copper World, Inc.
- HSL Properties, Inc.

greatervailchamber.com

Ready to retire?
Do you have a plan in place?
Let's talk.

Fee Only Fiduciary, I act in your best interest.

To learn more, call Brad Singer today at **480-330-4878**



Brad Singer, CFA
480-330-4878
Brad@VailFinancialAdvisors.com
www.VailFinancialAdvisors.com

VAIL FINANCIAL ADVISORS

*Disclosure: Vail Financial Advisors is an investment advisory firm registered in Arizona. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Differences in account size, timing of transactions and market conditions prevailing at the time of investment may lead to different results, and clients may lost money. Clients should consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of investing. Yields are not guaranteed. May not be appropriate for all investors. Employs the use of option strategies and or Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) using option strategies.

Word Search

Movie Actors 1

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

BACON, Kevin
BARDEM, Javier
BLACK, Jack
BRIDGES, Jeff
CAINE, Michael
CARREY, Jim
CHAN, Jackie
CLOONEY, George
COSTNER, Kevin
CUSACK, John
DAMON, Matt
DANIELS, Jeff
DEPP, Johnny
DICAPRIO, Leonardo
DOUGLAS, Michael
DUNCAN, Michael Clarke
FORD, Harrison
FOXX, Jamie
GIBSON, Mel
GOLDBLUM, Jeff
GRANT, Hugh
GYLLENHAAL, Jake
HACKMAN, Gene
HARTNETT, Josh
IRONS, Jeremy
JACKMAN, Hugh
JONES, James Earl
LAW, Jude
MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew
MCKELLEN, Ian
NEESON, Liam
PESCI, Joe
PHOENIX, Joaquin
REEVES, Keanu
RUSH, Geoffrey
RUSSELL, Kurt
SPACEY, Kevin
STATHAM, Jason
TRAVOLTA, John
VOIGHT, Jon
WAHLBERG, Mark
WEAVING, Hugo
WOOD, Elijah

The Academy of Tucson

Looking for an A-Rated, tuition free, college-prep, K-12 school for your child?

Come see about the Academy of Tucson!





Elementary School
9209 E Wrightstown Rd
(520) 886-6076

Middle School
7310 E 22nd St
(520) 749-1413

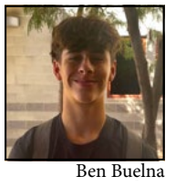
High School
10720 E 22nd St
(520) 733-0096

Tuition free public charter schools • Founded in 1986 • Chartered in 1999
Fully accredited since 1990 • Small class sizes • College-preparatory curriculum
Art, music, performing arts, PE, technology electives
Extracurricular activities including sports and clubs • 100% Graduation rate
Earn college credit while still in high school

A Memorable Thanksgiving

Q: What is Your Favorite Thanksgiving Memory?

Katie Howell: “Where I grew up, Thanksgiving was a big holiday because the Americans would all come together and have a big party with a water slide, piñatas, and limbo.” (Empire student)



Ben Buelna
Empire student

“My favorite memory of Thanksgiving is going to my grandma's house and doing puzzles with my whole family.”



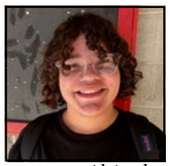
Zoë Hernandez
Empire student

“My favorite Thanksgiving memory is as a kid waking up really early with my sister to watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and then we watched the dog show while my parents cooked in the kitchen.”



Julie Matthews
Empire teacher

“My family is Czech, so one of the things we make every year is these dumplings, and one of my first Thanksgivings here I made them for my husband’s family, and he told me that I didn’t need to bring them anymore, that people did not like them. I told him that I didn’t care, that I got to eat all the leftovers, so if nobody ate them, then more for myself! And now we are married, and he gets to make the dumplings every year, he has to help!”



Alejandro
Rivera-Torres
Empire student

"My favorite Thanksgiving memory is probably when I went to Lake Havasu with my aunt and my family, and we ate traditional Puerto Rican food.”

Article By Audrey Keeling



My name is Audrey Keeling and I am completing my senior exit project in the field of journalism with The Vail Voice. I am very interested and passionate about writing, I look forward to learning more about what being a journalist entails, getting out in the community, and further planning my future career. I am an early graduate at Empire High School and I am involved in cheerleading and soccer, with interests in writing, legal studies, and media production. After graduation, I hope to attend a university with a major in journalism!





Residential/Business Development Process in Pima County

There has been much discussion about the process of zoning/development for residential/businesses in Pima County – specifically South East Pima County. Robert Donaldson, from Pima County Developmental Services presented information about the process at a recent SEAC Community meeting.

If you want to build something in Pima County (house or business), the first step is to find a piece of property where you are permitted to build your entity. The next thing you need to do is verify that the zoning for the property permits/allows you to build the entity. If the zoning of the property allows you to build your building, the permitting process occurs next.

What if your perfect piece of property does not match the zoning? You will then need to go through the rezoning process. In Arizona there are two types of zoning: switching from one zone to another or switching to unit development. Both processes are a public process. A Planning Commission Meeting, where neighbors of the property are invited to dialogue either their support or non-support of the zoning change is held. Upon approval by the Commission, the proposal goes to the Board of Supervisors meeting. The zoning request may be approved as submitted or with conditions. The latter means that the request requires meetings with a hearing administrator to resolve the conditions to move forward. At times the zoning returns to the Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors for approval of a variance, which means that the property owner is requested to do additional things prior to approval. A plat layout is submitted if/when approved and the property owner is ready for permitting. A non-approval of zoning means the land owner has more work to do prior to approval.



Rob Donaldson

Newly zoned property must be built on within five (5) years or the property will need to be rezoned again. Property previously zoned prior to the passing of the five-years clause is “grandfathered” under zoning that was previously passed. The property Dollar General that is being built on is an example of previous zoning that was approved in the 1960’s.

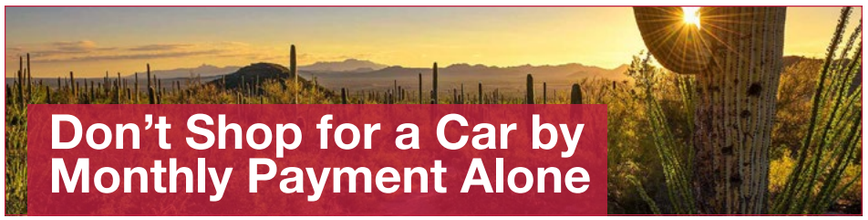
Questions about zoning/development should be be addressed to: robert.donaldson@pima.gov. To view the presentation go to https://www.facebook.com/thevailvoice/

By Carol A. Wagner Williams
President – SEAC of Pima County
info@seacpimacounty.org

Beautify Your Home with
PROFESSIONAL & DEPENDABLE LANDSCAPING AT AN AFFORDALE PRICE.
Landscape installations, One time clean ups, Irrigation system installs, landscape lighting & Irrigation repairs
520.326.7209
www.sonoranscapesinc.com
Free ESTIMATES
SONORAN SCAPES LANDSCAPING INC
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
Servicing Tucson & Surrounding areas since 2000 ROC#256984

Over 20 Years in the Community.
Heather Redmon, DVM
Madera Veterinary Hospital
OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:
CO2 Laser Surgery
Digital Radiology
Internal Medicine
Dentistry
Cold Laser Therapy
Microchipping
Puppy & Kitten Packages
Excellent Care for Excellent Pets!
maderavet.com
(520) 574-3700
Serving Rita Ranch and Southeast Tucson
7681 S. Houghton Road

ooroo
Auto Repair With Heart
OOROO Auto is proud to join the Vail community! Locally owned and operated, OOROO provides expert car repair and maintenance
For a limited time: Take $25 or 10% off your next service.
(520) 394-8394 | Monday-Friday: 7:30am-5:30pm
10508 E Old Vail Rd (next to Hotrods)
oorooauto.com
Arizona Daily Star AZ DAILY STAR READERS FAVORITE
BBB SOUTHERN ARIZONA TORCH AWARD ETHICS & CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE



Don’t Shop for a Car by Monthly Payment Alone

A lower car payment sounds like a better deal.

Sometimes it is. Sometimes it just means you’ll be making that payment for a lot longer. That’s why one of the easiest mistakes to make when shopping for a vehicle is focusing too heavily on the monthly number. A dealer may be able to bring the payment down by stretching the loan over more months, but that can increase what you pay in interest and keep you in debt longer.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recommends comparing the full loan, including the amount financed, APR, loan term and monthly payment, because all four affect what the vehicle ultimately costs.

Start with what you can actually afford
Before you shop, figure out what comfortably fits into your budget. That means looking beyond the loan payment.

Add insurance, fuel, registration and maintenance. If you’re moving from an older vehicle into something newer or more expensive, get an insurance quote before you buy. The difference may be bigger than expected.

Then decide what monthly payment works without squeezing everything else. There’s an important distinction here: what a lender approves you for and what you want to spend are not necessarily the same number.

Pay attention to the loan term
Auto loan terms are commonly expressed in months: 36, 48, 60, 72 and sometimes longer.

A longer term spreads the balance over more payments, which lowers the amount due each month. The tradeoff is that you generally pay more interest over the life of the loan.

Long terms can create another problem, too. Because vehicles typically lose value over time, you may spend longer owing more than the vehicle is worth. That’s known as negative equity, or being “upside down” on the loan.

That can become especially important if you want or need to trade the vehicle before the loan is paid off.

Compare APR, not just the payment
When looking at financing offers, pay attention to the annual percentage rate, or APR.

Then look at the amount you’re actually borrowing. Taxes, fees, optional products and money still owed on a trade-in can all increase the amount financed. A monthly payment may look manageable while quietly carrying a much larger balance underneath it.

Before signing, make sure you know:

- How much am I financing?
- What is the APR?
- How long is the loan?
- What will I pay in total if I make every scheduled payment?

Shop for the financing, too
Before you head to the dealership, it can help to know what your financing looks like.

At Hughes, you can get preapproved for an auto loan before you shop, giving you a better sense of your financing options and something to compare with any offers at the dealership.

Having that information upfront also helps keep the conversation focused on the price of the vehicle, not just how low someone can make the monthly payment look.

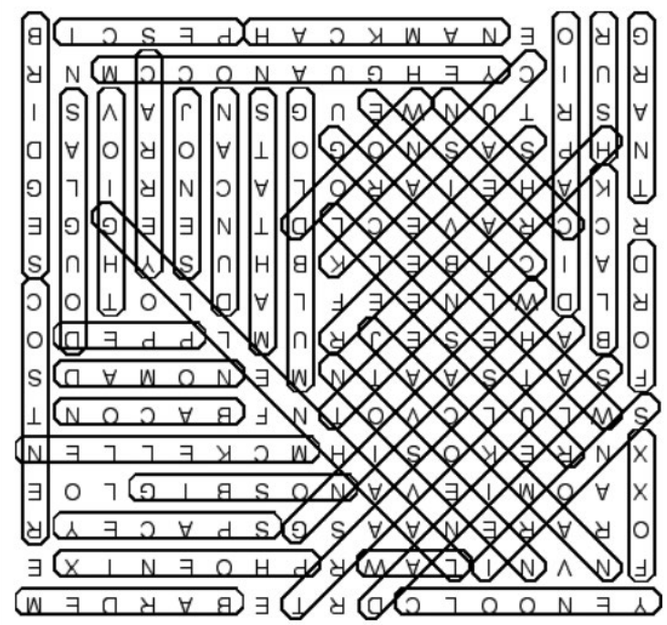
Explore Hughes auto financing and get started at **HughesFCU.org/Auto.**

Hughes Federal Credit Union

Word Search Solved

The hidden movie title is: REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

BACON, Kevin
BARDEM, Javier
BLACK, Jack
BRIDGES, Jeff
CAINE, Michael
CARREY, Jim
CHAN, Jackie
CLOONEY, George
COSTNER, Kevin
CUSACK, John
DAMON, Matt
DANIELS, Jeff
DEPP, Johnny
DICAPRIO, Leonardo
DOUGLAS, Michael
DUNCAN, Michael Clarke
FORD, Harrison
FOXX, Jamie
GIBSON, Mel
GOLDBLUM, Jeff
GRANT, Hugh
GYLLENHAAL, Jake
HACKMAN, Gene
HARTNETT, Josh
IRONS, Jeremy
JACKMAN, Hugh
JONES, James Earl
LAW, Jude
MCCONAUGHEY, Matthew
MCKELLEN, Ian
NEESON, Liam
PESCI, Joe
PHOENIX, Joaquin
REEVES, Keanu
RUSH, Geoffrey
RUSSELL, Kurt
SPACEY, Kevin
STATHAM, Jason
TRAVOLTA, John
VOIGHT, Jon
WAHLBERG, Mark
WEAVING, Hugo
WOOD, Elijah



Movie Actors 1

Curious about your family history?

Professional research to help you discover, preserve, and share your family’s story.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Family History & Genealogy
- Military Records Research
- Historical Research & Narratives

Written Roots

Scan to learn more

writtenroots.co/vail

HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Give the gift of their story



A new hometown favorite has arrived.

Introducing the new Vail-inspired Hughes debit card, created with inspiration from our local community. A big thank-you to all the Vail students who shared their creativity and participated in our design contest!

Hughes shares your passion for the community. It's why we created a suite of exclusive, locally inspired debit card designs. Choose your favorite and pair it with a free checking account that earns dividends with no monthly fees, no minimum balance and convenient 24/7 online and mobile banking.

For every Vail debit card instantly issued, Hughes donates $5 to the Vail School District Foundation—helping fund programs, classroom resources, and opportunities for students across the district.

We take you further.

Hughes Federal Credit Union

READERS' CHOICE 2026 WINNER Arizona Daily Star

Best Bank/Credit Union
Best Debit Card
Best Large Company to Work For

HughesFCU.org/Debit
520-794-8341

Insured by NCUA. Certain restrictions apply.