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Valley's Boys and Girls Clubs generate big benefits

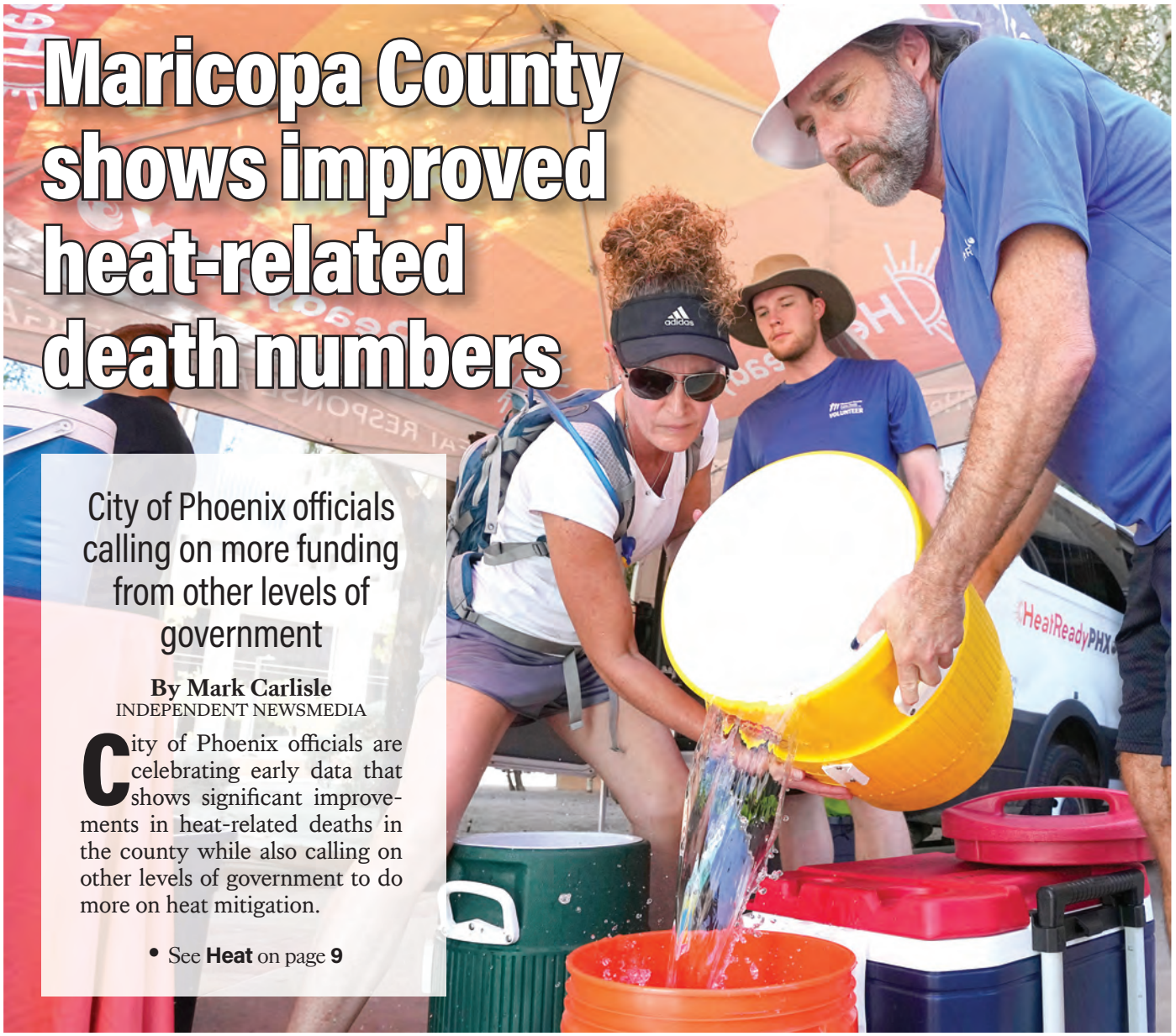
By Jeff Wendt
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A recent study showed the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley delivers one of the highest social returns on investment, the organization announced on Friday in a release.

The study, conducted by Arizona State University's L. William Seidman Research Institute, showed for every dollar invested, the club produced $14.79 in community benefit in 2024-25. That translated to $398.5 million in socioeconomic value through the clubs' 30-plus locations throughout the state.

"The big picture is we serve over 20,000 youth in four counties across 14 cities," said Marica Mintz, president and CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of Arizona. "We develop these kids ages 5 to 21 to give them the skills and tools to succeed in life."

• See **Clubs** on page **18**



Maricopa County shows improved heat-related death numbers

City of Phoenix officials calling on more funding from other levels of government

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

City of Phoenix officials are celebrating early data that shows significant improvements in heat-related deaths in the county while also calling on other levels of government to do more on heat mitigation.

• See **Heat** on page **9**

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Phoenix plans to transition most crosswalks to high-visibility within 7 years

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A citizen petition pushed the city of Phoenix to transition all crosswalks on non-residential roads in the city to high-visibility crosswalks within five years. Instead, a compromise was struck to transition 78% of crosswalks, targeting locations with the most benefit, within seven years.

"I think it gives us the best balance of urgency, equity and fiscal responsibility," City Councilmember Kesha Hodge Washington said during the Wednesday, Nov. 19 Transportation, Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittee meeting.

The subcommittee approved the plan unanimously. It will still need final approval from the full council.

The person who filed the citizen petition, Nicole Rodriguez, who is president of the Urban Phoenix Project as well as the Valley Urban Action Alliance, said she supports the city's new proposal. She also requested the city explore more funding options and cost-saving options for the program.

The city's plan will also accommodate the citizen petition's request to add stop bars — lines that denote where a vehicle must stop at an intersection — at all intersections with crosswalks in the city. Staff did not say if that would be completed on the same seven-year timeline.



From left, front row, then-Phoenix Streets Interim Director Brandy Kelso, Mayor Kate Gallego and councilmembers Kesha Hodge Washington, Debra Stark and Laura Pastor cross a high-visibility crosswalk during a city even on Dec. 5, 2024. (Courtesy Phoenix City Council District 4 Office)

Safety statistics

A U.S. Department of Transportation study found high-visibility crosswalks can reduce pedestrian-involved crashes up to 42% and stop bars can reduce pedestrian-involved crashes up to 25%.

"It could be a critical tool in helping to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries," Hodge Washington said.

Seven-year plan

Streets staff did not attach a cost to the seven-year plan in their presentation to the subcommittee. They only said that after installation, annual maintenance would be less than the $24-million price tag associated with the plan to upgrade every crosswalk in the city.

The plan will upgrade all mid-block intersections to high-visibility as well as crosswalks at signalized intersections in Phoenix's High Injury Network and at intersections close to schools and other community areas like community centers, parks, libraries and high-ridership transit corridors.

"This option significantly reduces the installation cost of long-term maintenance compared to the other options while providing high-visibility crosswalks where we have the most pedestrian traffic," Assistant Streets Directors Matthew Wilson told the subcommittee.

Cost of a five-year plan

The cost to transition all of the city's 6,389 crosswalks to high-visibility crosswalks – 573, or about 9% are already high-visibility – and add stop bars to all intersection crosswalks within five years would be about $95 million, or $19 million a year, Wilson said.

Under this plan, the city would also need to hire 20 additional full-time workers, which Wilson did not see as realistic because Streets Department already operates with significant vacancies.

"The five-year timeline requires more resources than we have available," Wilson said.

Wilson said a common misconception is that crosswalk lines are painted on so people assume the cost and labor required are low. The lines are made of thermoplastic which is applied through a heated kettle. Thermoplastic is much more durable than paint, Wilson said, and is better for visibility and traction.

The main cost associated with installation is that the crosswalk must be repaved before a new coat is applied. The machine requires pavement to be pretty smooth and can be damaged by uneven surfaces.

Though it is more durable than paint, thermoplastic has a lifespan of only five years. This means the cost of installing the high-visibility crosswalks would basically need to be repeated every five years. The projected maintenance cost, $24 million a year, would actually outpace annual cost of transitioning to high-visibility crosswalks because the latter benefits from 9% of the city's crosswalks already being completed.

Wilson compared that to the existing annual budget for citywide signing and striping is $9.8 million. Staff also stated that the $24 million annual maintenance cost does not include the cost of obliterating the existing thermoplastic before the street is repaved.

Funding and cost-saving options

Councilmember Jim Waring questioned the efficiency of the thermoplastic material and asked if paint would be a better option even if it doesn't last as long. Streets Director Briiana Velez said in high-traffic areas, paint would only have a lifespan of around six months. However, she told Waring she would have her staff study if it could be a cost-saving option in lower-traffic areas where it might have a longer lifespan.

Rodriguez agreed with Waring that paint should be examined as an option for low-traffic areas. Staff had mentioned potentially using funding from the Vision Zero Road Safety Action plan for upgrading the crosswalks.



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ELECTIONS

Phoenix funds mail-in ballot sorting system for another two years

By Mark Carlisle
INDPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In the face of President Donald Trump vowing to end mail-in voting, Phoenix City Council has extended the contract for its mail-in ballot sorting system.

During the Nov. 19 council meeting, the council unanimously approved a two-year extension to the contract with Runbeck Election Services, LLC for the ballot envelope sorting system designed to "process early ballots and other election materials in an efficient, accurate, and timely manner," as city staff document states.

The Phoenix City Clerk Department conducts municipal elections for the city. Prior to the contract that begin in 2020, mail-in ballot envelopes were sorted manually by city staff.

Resident Leonard Clark gave a public comment supporting the contract extension, saying it will make sure elections "continue to be free and fair."

Clark said it used to be a more bipartisan issue.

"In the past, our Republican friends — not only Democrats — wanted this, but it is under attack by certain people in Washington, D.C. who shouldn't be sticking their noses into our business," Clark said.

Polling from Pew Research shows that in April 2020, 70% of Americans supported allowing any voter to vote by mail, including 87% of Democrats and 49% of Republicans. That support has since dropped to 58% in a Pew poll from this year, including 83% of Democrats and just 32% of Republicans.



Elections officials process mail-in ballots prior to first day of tabulation in Maricopa County, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 at the Maricopa County Recorder's Office in Phoenix. (Associated Press/Matt York)

Trump has spent years attacking mail-in voting and has pledged to eliminate the practice, though the president does not have direct authority to do that. The Associated Press reported earlier this month that the Supreme Court will hear a case to decide if states have the right to count mail-in ballots that arrive after Election Day.

Mayor Kate Gallego thanked Clark for his public comment.

"The majority of voters in Phoenix elections do choose to vote by mail," Gallego noted.

A city document states that there are 857,656 registered voters in Phoenix, with almost 645,500, or about 75%, of these voters on the Active Early Voting List, which automatically sends an early ballot by mail for elections in which they are eligible to vote.

That does not necessarily mean each of these voters vote by mail, however. They also have the options of handing in the early ballot at a polling location or drop box, disregarding the early ballot and voting with a replacement ballot at a polling location or sitting out an election.

The five-year contract for the city's mail-in voting machine signed in 2020 was set to expire at the end of this month. This extension will fund the system through November 2027.

The extension years will be less expensive than the initial contract. That five-year contract was for $363,000, or $72,600 per year. The extension will cover two years at $87,000, or $43,500 per year.

OLYMPICS

Phoenix bids to host US marathon trials for 2028 Olympics

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Phoenix wants to host the marathon trials for the U.S. Olympic Team for the 2028 Olympics.

The Phoenix City Council voted 9-0 last week for the city to bid to host the event in the lead-up to the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

The U.S. Olympic Team marathon trials are held in a U.S. city each year. The last time the U.S. hosted they Olympics, the host city — Atlanta — also hosted the marathon trials.

If Phoenix were awarded the bid, the marathon would take place in March 2028 on city streets. City staff projects an economic impact of $13.5 million due to spending on hotels, travel, dining and other tourism industries. The event is expected to bring more than 100,000 spectators as well as a hotel room block of about 1,500 rooms for athletes, coaches and Olympics staff.

These event is also expected to bring 250 national and international media members to Phoenix, 1.6 million TV viewers nationally across NBC and Peacock, as well as approximately 21 million social media impressions. The city estimates the media value of that exposure at $27 million.

"This bid is a smart investment in our economy, our reputation and our long-term vision for Phoenix as a premiere destination for major national and international events," Councilmember Kesha Hodge Washington said during the Wednesday, Nov. 19 meeting.

The city's commitment as the host of the marathon trials would be similar to services it regularly provides for large events, Hodge Washington said. That includes use of city-controlled venues like the Phoenix Convention Center, public safety support and emergency preparedness services, traffic coordination, providing a dedicated city liaison, facilitating branding, décor, signage and street pole banners and providing assistance with permitting coordina-

• See **Marathon** on page **5**

Marathon

• From page **4**

tion, licensing and plan reviews.

Two companies are vying to host the event should it be awarded to Phoenix: Brooksee, which runs the Phoenix and Mesa marathons as well as other races across the country, and the Mollen Mile 10k race, which also hosted a marathon for the first time this year.

Phil Dumontet, CEO of Brooksee, said his company immediately knew they wanted to bid on the Olympic marathon trials and began to consider which of their partner cities would be the best fit.

"Phoenix immediately rose to the top as the clear choice," Dumontet said.

Dr. Art Mollen is the founder of the Mollen Mile race, which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. He said his group should be considered in a part of any bid made for this event because of its local expertise and relationship with the running community.

"I think that we could definitely be a significant component in helping Phoenix to obtain that bid for the 2028 Olympic marathon trials," Mollen said.

Mollen's wife Paige said their bid doesn't have to compete with Brooksee's but that they would like any opportunity to be included.

Councilmember Kevin Robinson included that sentiment in his motion for the vote, saying that whatever race producer is awarded a contract with the city should put forth a "good faith effort to partner with a local nonprofit organization with significant experience in Olympics and local running events," Robinson said.



Runners participate in the Mesa Marathon. Phoenix is bidding to host the marathon trials for U.S. Olympic Team for the 2028 Olympics. Both Phoenix's Mollen Mile race and Brooksee, the company that hosts both the Phoenix and Mesa marathons, are bidding to host the race if Phoenix is awarded. (Courtesy of the Mesa Marathon)

Mayor Kate Gallego agreed.

"I like that it recognizes local expertise as very important to national," she said.



Transit riders exit a light rail train at a stop along Central Avenue in Phoenix.

TRANSIT

Public invited to provide input on west Phoenix transit options

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix are seeking community feedback on how transit will reach west Phoenix.

The public is invited to provide input on route options for the Capitol Extension light rail project and its connection to the I-10 West light rail extension project. These projects would extend light rail service from downtown Phoenix to the Arizona State Capitol area and ultimately to the Desert Sky Transit Center.

Public comment will be collected through January, with Phoenix

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Transit

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City Council action on both projects expected in late January.

The council will either adopt an updated Capitol Extension route, in the first step to extend light rail to west Phoenix and connect the I-10 West Extension, or re-evaluate high-capacity transit alternatives to serve west Phoenix, with or without the Capitol Extension. Community input gathered during this engagement period is critical in informing the council's decision.

As community-driven projects, public feedback plays a vital role in shaping the future of transit in Phoenix. Community members are invited to view project updates and share feedback submit feedback online at valleymetro.org/CAPEX or valleymetro.org/10WEST.

Project information is available in both English and Spanish.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Phoenix Police seeks public input on new policy for interacting with homeless people

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Phoenix Police Department is looking for the public's feedback on a new "Interacting with Individuals Experiencing Homelessness" policy.

Read a copy of the proposed policy at shorturl.at/6UpUsand provide feedback at shorturl.at/wD1qO. The 30-day public input period ends Saturday, Dec. 13.

Once finalized, this policy will provide guidance for respectful, lawful interactions with individuals experiencing homelessness, covering:

- Interactions & enforcement.
- Encampment reporting to PHX C.A.R.E.S.



The Phoenix Police Department is looking for the public's feedback on a new "Interacting with Individuals Experiencing Homelessness" policy. (Courtesy of the Phoenix Police Department)

- Personal property handling.

The policy aims to uphold the dignity and rights of the community members and coordinate with the Office of Homeless Solutions and PHX C.A.R.E.S. for outreach, services and encampment reporting.

All comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration before the policy is finalized.

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PHOENIX NEWS

Phoenix Councilmember Anna Hernandez calls police K-9 unit 'dog abuse'

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Phoenix Councilmember Anna Hernandez said she does not support the Phoenix Police K-9 Unit, calling it "dog abuse."

"In my view, that is dog abuse to train these dogs to attack people. Furthermore, this is just one more weapon that we are throwing money at that we should be investing in care," Hernandez said during the Wednesday, Nov. 19 city council meeting.

The comments came ahead of a vote to allow a retiring officer on the K-9 Unit, Steven Mead, to purchase his assigned dog Deichmann for $1. Deichmann is 8 years old and has worked for the police department since 2018. A city document states he has met the department's standard five years of service and "due to his age and bond with his handler, it is requested that he be allowed to retire," the document states.

Hernandez supported allowing Mead to take the dog into retirement, joining the rest of the council on a 9-0 vote.

"It's actually good to hear that these dogs will be going to a good home and have a restful life after we've used and abused them here at the city," Hernandez said.

In a video published by the Phoenix Police Department in 2020, officers describe the police dogs as being used as a locating tool — for suspects as well as for drugs, explosives or other crime scene evidence.

Officer Christopher Villa described the dangerous situations dogs are sent into but characterized it as a necessary tool to keep officers safe.

"We send these dogs into some of the most dangerous situations before we'll send an officer in there," Villa said in the video. "Because ultimately, we love these dogs and we treat them like family members, but at the same time I've got to have all these guys be able to come home to their families. And that's why these dogs are huge for us because we can send them into a dark room where a bad guy's hiding and be able to get to them before that bad guy gets to us."



A Phoenix police dog bites the arm of Officer Lisa Fisher, who is wearing a bite suit for K-9 Unit training. (Courtesy Phoenix Police Department)

The Phoenix Police K-9 Unit currently has 17 dogs. A Phoenix Police web page lists five police dogs that have died on duty, in incidents spanning from 1984-2018.

The U.S. Department of Justice's report of its investigation into the Phoenix Police Department, published in June 2024, found that the department "fails to exercise control over police dogs."

"We reviewed cases in which handlers permitted the dogs to bite people for dangerously prolonged periods, even after they had surrendered or were handcuffed," the DOJ report states.

In 2023, Phoenix Police received a grant from the Phoenix Police Foundation for some new dog training tools as well as reconnaissance tools that can help keep police dogs safe. The new technology includes heat signature cameras, cameras that can slide under doors to see into a room before entering and "recon throwbots," small, wheeled robots with a camera that can be thrown into an area and then driven around be remote control to surveil an area.

In a video the department published about the new technology, Officer Lisa Fisher told the story of a police dog named Dennis who was sent into an apartment complex to look for a homicide suspect as safely as possible at the time. Dennis found the suspect who shot the dog in the face and neck. Dennis survived the injuries. Fisher said if they had had the throwbot at the time, the robot would have been sent in instead of the dog.

Tim Thomas, president of the Phoenix Police Foundation, said the new training and reconnaissance tools are meant "to keep our canines, our handlers and the general public as safe as they can be while they're out in the community protecting the public."

Hernandez asked City Attorney Julie Kreigh during last week's city council meeting if a police dog attacked anyone after it retired, if the city would hold any liability because it trained the dog to attack suspects. Kreigh replied that her understanding was the liability is turned over to the dog's owner once it is sold.

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TRANSIT

Valley Metro sees improved security data, rider satisfaction

Valley Metro riders are more satisfied with the transit system and have felt improvements in security and cleanliness, according to a recent survey of more than 1,100 riders. The improved rider experience is also paired with a drop in rail security incidents, year over year, by more than 50%.

"The progress we're seeing reflects the strong partnerships we've built with our police departments and the hard work of our teams to ensure that every rider has a positive experience," stated Valley Metro RPTA Board Chair and Tempe Councilmember Jennifer Adams in a news release.

A Valley Metro survey, finalized this month, found that the vast majority riders feel safe using the system citing more visible and professional security officers, cleaner stations and fewer unsafe situations. Compared to 2022 results, riders reported significant improvements across the board.

- 81% of bus, streetcar and light rail riders feel very secure or secure (71% in 2022).
- 61% see more security on transit (52% in 2022).
- 82% very likely or likely to recommend Valley Metro to others (74% in

• See **Security** on page **8**

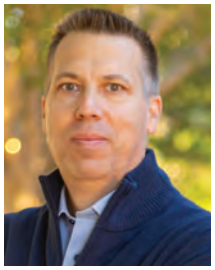
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Security

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2022).

• 78% very satisfied or satisfied with Valley Metro (69% in 2022).

"It's encouraging to have riders tell us they feel safer and more confident using our system," stated Valley Metro Rail Board Chair and Phoenix Councilmember Laura Pastor in a news release. "Increased presence of security, partnerships with local law enforcement and enhanced cleanliness along the system are important factors in increasing ridership and the rider experience."

• Bus and rail ridership in September 2025 increased by 21% (year over year), with 45,000 daily weekday riders.

• The new rail extension into south Phoenix is seeing more than 9,000 riders each weekday, surpassing a projected 8,000 daily riders.

• Metro Parkway station, which opened in January 2024, had 69,000 boardings in September, second highest in the system. Followed closely by 67,000 boardings at the new end-of-line in south Phoenix at Baseline/Central Ave.

• Express and RAPID commuter buses are seeing weekday increases of 18%.

"The ease and convenience of light rail is fantastic and is a safer, more efficient mode of transportation. The increased presence of security on the train has been impactful over the last year," stated Alex Coil, Valley Metro rider, in a news release. "The refresh of light rail cars and overall cleanliness promotes a safe environment for all to enjoy."

According to Valley Metro security data:

• From FY 2024 to FY 2025, the average rail incident rate dropped by 54%.

• From January to June 2025, total incidents decreased 75% compared to the same period in 2024.

HIKING

Echo Canyon trail remains closed as Phoenix addresses unstable boulders

Echo Canyon Trail at Camelback Mountain will remain closed as the city of Phoenix works to resolve safety concerns, including three unstable boulders identified following recent storms.

In mid-October, the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department temporarily closed Echo Canyon Trail to investigate possible erosion. Since then, the city has consulted with a team of geotechnical and civil engineers and finalized a plan to stabilize and remove three loose boulders. The plan, which will began this week, involves:

• Coring multiple holes into each boulder and injecting expanding grout. Under pressure, the grout will cause the boulders to safely separate.

• Restoring the site to its natural state following completion of the work.

This plan prioritizes public safety and ensures that all work is completed as efficiently and minimally invasive as possible.

"We understand how important Echo Canyon is to residents and visitors alike," Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar stated in a news release. "We're taking a careful, methodical approach to restore Echo Canyon, and we appreciate the community's patience while we ensure the trail is safe again."

While trail safety work is underway, the Parks and Recreation Department is also taking the opportunity to complete additional trailhead improvements, including restroom renovations and parking lot maintenance. By coordinating these improvements with the trail safety work, the city will prevent additional closures and ensure the trail is ready to reopen as soon as possible.

FROM THE COVER

Heat

• From page **1**

ON THE COVER: The city of Phoenix Heat Response Program team volunteers Natalie Boyd, left, and David Coughenour, right, prepare heat relief kits for the public in need July 20, 2023 in Phoenix. (The Associated Press/Ross D. Franklin)

Preliminary data from Maricopa County shows 333 confirmed heat-related deaths so far this year with another 152 under investigation. That is a stark difference from the 608 heat-related deaths in 2024. It would also mark the second straight year of improvement — 2023 had 645 heat-related deaths — which has not happened in the county since 2013-14.

At a news conference on Friday, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said that while the numbers are an improvement, "one death is too many."

"We know that saving lives is one of the best investments we can make in our community," Gallego said.

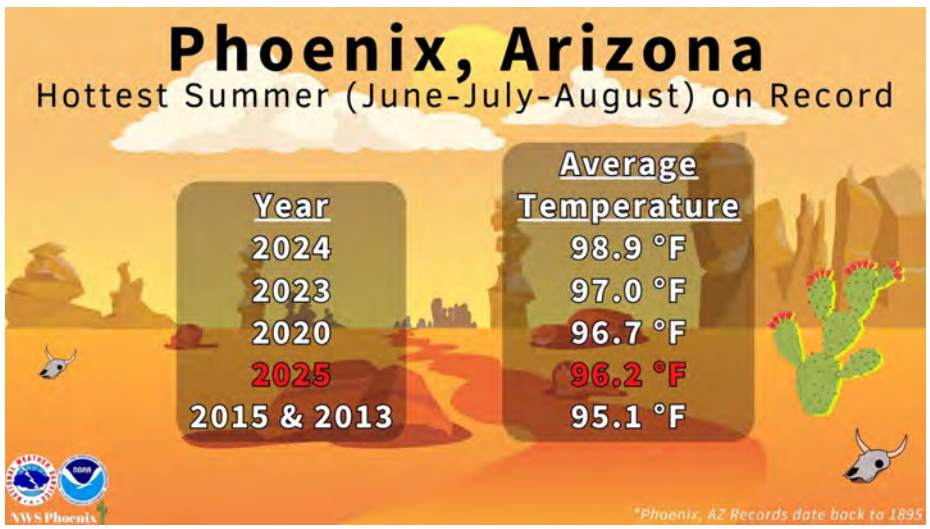
Gallego said Phoenix has long had a disproportionate burden when it comes to heat relief and mitigation but said the city cannot do it alone.

"More illnesses would be prevented, more lives saved, more neighbors would be at the dining table each night with additional support from the county, state or federal government. Heat does not stop at municipal boundaries," Gallego said.

Phoenix Homeless Services Director Rachel Milne highlighted that there had been some funding from the county, which helped make the 24/7 heat respite center at 20 W. Jackson St. possible.

Gallego also said she was grateful to the city of Chandler who has stepped up to do more on heat relief than ever before this year.

Phoenix City Councilmember Kevin Robinson encouraged other Valley cities to do more as well.



Summer 2025 was the fourth-hottest summer on record for Phoenix, according to the U.S. National Weather Service. (Courtesy U.S. National Weather Service)



Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego speaks at a news conference about the city's heat relief efforts outside of the city's 24/7 heat respite center at 20 W. Jackson St. on Friday, Nov. 21. (Courtesy city of Phoenix)

The news conference was held in front of the city's 20 W. Jackson St. heat respite center. It was the second summer in a row the city offered a 24/7 heat respite center, the only city in the state to do so.

"I hope the success of this respite center serves as an example to other cities that investing in the health and city of your residents is attainable and it is most impactful," Robinson said.

The center at 20 W. Jackson St., along with three Phoenix library locations open until 10 p.m. over the summer to serve as cooling centers, saw a combined 44,000 visitors during the heat season of May-September.

Phoenix also offered cooling centers at many city facilities such as libraries during the day. In total, there were 111 cooling centers across the county.

Milne highlighted that the center at 20 W. Jackson St. had an area for families with minor children, a separate space for women and allowed guests to keep their pets with them.

City officials also stressed that the center was more than just a place to get out of the heat. There was support staff from both the city and Community Bridges, Inc. at the center who helped connect 751 guests over the summer to "life-changing resources," as Gallego said, including emergency shelter, housing programs, reuniting guests with family members and helping access mental and behavioral health services.

Phoenix Fire Executive Chief Tim Kreis said that these centers benefit more than just the vulnerable populations that use them. They free up emergency response services to be better able to respond to other emergencies throughout the city.

"Each one of the 44,000 visits could have resulted in a 911 call, a medical emergency," Kreis said.

Gallego had nodded at the irony of holding a heat relief news conference on a cold day following rainy weather but said city officials are thinking about summer heat year-round.

Phoenix Director of Heat Relief and Mitigation David Hondula agreed.

"I think there's a fair argument to be made that these are the days, this is the time of year that's the most critical as we are evaluating what happened this past season and planning for next season," Hondula said.

Aside from heat respite and cooling centers, Hondula highlighted other recent city efforts around heat relief and mitigation. In 2024, city council

• See **Deaths** on page **18**

LEGISLATURE

Citizens Clean Elections Commission seeks delay in renaming No Labels party in Arizona

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Calling the move confusing, the Citizens Clean Elections Commission wants Secretary of State Adrian Fontes to reverse — or at least delay — his decision to allow the No labels Party to be renamed the Arizona Independent Party.

In a letter to Fontes, Mark Kimble, who chairs the commission, points out Arizona has used the word "independent" for years to mean people who are registered to vote but unaffiliated with any organized party.

"That understanding is consistent across polling, national election research, and everyday voter experience," Kimble wrote. What allowing a party to use the word "Independent" will do, he said, is create the risk that people will be signed up as a member of the Arizona Independent Party when they really wanted nothing to do with any party at all.

All that is critical given Arizona's "open primary."

In general, only those registered with a recognized party can vote in the partisan primaries.

But Arizona law allows those unaffiliated — something Kimble said translates to "independent" — to request a ballot ahead of each primary election for either the Republican or Democratic primary. A federal court ruling exempts the Arizona Libertarian Party from the open primary system.

But people registered with the Arizona Independent Party — whether intentionally or otherwise — will be eligible to receive only a primary ballot from that party and be able to choose only among those seeking that party's nomination.



People with the group No Labels hold signs during a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 18, 2011. Calling the move confusing, the Citizens Clean Elections Commission wants Secretary of State Adrian Fontes to reverse — or at least delay — his decision to allow the No labels Party to be renamed the Arizona Independent Party. (The Associated Press/Jacquelyn Martin)

"Experience in other states with similarly named parties show that this kind of confusion is common and difficult to correct once it occurs," Kimble said.

To back that up, he cited a 2016 poll in California, reported by the Los Angeles Times, a year in which the American Independent Party was recognized there. That story said 73% of those who were signed up with that party believed they were unaffiliated.

So the commission wants Fontes to reverse his October approval allowing the new names for what had been the No Labels Party. If he won't do that, Kimble said he should delay the effective date — now set for this coming Monday, Dec. 1 — until after the 2026 election cycle.

At this point, that request appears to be getting no traction.

"While we recognize the concern from those decrying the decision, the secretary has followed Arizona law in recognizing the name change," said Calli Jones, press aide to Fontes. She said, though, he is working with the governor's office, the attorney general and the counties who administer voter registration "to make sure there's no confusion when voters register."

Paul Johnson, who submitted the name change in October as chairman of the No Labels of Arizona Party, also said he doesn't see a problem.

In his request, Johnson told Fontes that Oregon, Connecticut and Delaware "have certified parties under the 'Independent' designation without confusion."

"These examples demonstrate that state officials and court have consistently distinguished between an 'Independent Party' as a recognized political organization and 'independent/unaffiliated' as a registration status," he said.

But Johnson said he believes the complaints aren't about voter confusion. He said current politicians with the major parties do not want another political party on the ballot.

The key is that anyone wanting to run for statewide office as an independent candidate needs around 45,000 valid signature on petitions. Johnson said that has become a barrier.

But someone running within a party doesn't have the same hurdle.

In 2024, a Republican could get on the gubernatorial ballot with 7,032 signatures, a number based on registered voters. For Democrats it was 6,556, 3,607 for the Libertarian Party, 1,288 for the Green Party, and just 1,288 for the No Labels Party — the soon-to-be-Arizona Independent Party — which, according to the most recent figures, had signed up 42,277 people as members.

That lower hurdle, Johnson said, ensures those who don't associate with any of the other parties have an opportunity to seek the nomination — and that whoever gets the nomination will have an equal spot on the general election ballot with candidates from other parties.

Johnson, a former Phoenix mayor who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1998 as a Democrat — he became unaffiliated until the No Labels Party was formed — said Democrats have long been opposed to the whole idea of having independents on the ballot.

"They fear it will elect (Republican) Andy Biggs," Johnson said, splintering the 2026 general election votes of those opposed to Trump-backed MAGA candidates.

If Fontes refuses to rescind his permission to use the Arizona Independent Party name, or at least delay it, that is unlikely to be the last word.

Tom Collins, executive director of the Clean Elections Commission, said the case could wind up in court.

STATE

Arizona water board to help develop desalination plants in California, Mexico

By Bob Christie
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Arizona will provide taxpayer money to help private companies develop plans for at least two and possibly three desalination plants in California or Mexico under proposals approved by a state agency's board on Wednesday.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority board also approved initial development of several other projects from the two applicants that proposed new Arizona water supplies and made it past a lengthy review process. Those proposals would rely on treating wastewater, capturing storm water and storing it underground or making agricultural irrigation more efficient, with the projects located in California, Colorado, Utah or Mexico.



A worker passes rows of tubes used in the reverse osmosis process at the Carlsbad Desalination Project Sept. 22, 2015 in Carlsbad, California. Arizona will provide taxpayer money to help private companies develop plans for at least two and possibly three desalination plants in California or Mexico under proposals approved by a state agency's board on Wednesday. (The Associated Press/Gregory Bull)

Both the desalination plants and the remaining projects envision trading that new water for Colorado River allocations currently used by those states or Mexico.

The amount of money the state will pay the companies involved to further develop their proposals isn't known. Instead, the state agency will issue "task orders" in the coming months and determine how much it will pay for each project to be fleshed out.

The water won't come quickly: The earliest a proposal could supply any new water is in 2028, but most aim for the early to mid-2030s to begin deliveries.

No cost estimates for projects were immediately released, but previous desalination proposals were expected to each cost between $5 billion and $10 billion to develop.

All told, Arizona's water supplies could be boosted by between 427,000 acre-feet and 1.6 million acre-feet a year if all the projects were implemented. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons — enough water to cover an acre of land one foot deep and typically enough to supply three homes for a year.





OPINIONS

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Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month.

Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write.

Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

SAFETY

An armed man sat with me on campus

I attended the University of Arizona from 2021-23. Like many students, I walked thousands of steps around campus every day. Although the school's administration has done a fair job of promoting student safety, I don't believe they've done enough to ensure that real safety is a reality.

It seems like every year, there's a tragic death on campus. In 2021, a student was shot and killed in a campus parking garage.

In 2022, I had an early class and decided to get some food from the Student Union. I received a text message from the UAlert system that a young male with a gun had just assaulted someone on campus. Because the location was on the opposite end of campus, I continued with my day. I went outside to eat my breakfast at a table, close to where many other students were sitting.

Then the alert system gave the suspect's description: white shirt, black jeans, early 20s. I looked up to see him just a couple of feet from me. He asked another girl for a phone charger, which she let him keep, and then locked eyes with me.

He sat down right across from me. Our interaction was short, and I remained calm. Cops on motorcycles circled the Union slowly, passing right by us, unaware the man they were looking for was right in front of them.

Once the suspect noticed the officers, he ran down the stairs into the Union as they chased him. A shot rang out, and I noticed something unsettling: not one student reacted. It was just another day on campus, seeing officers responding to yet another call, and witnessing the chaos. Luckily, I wasn't hurt, but I always wonder what could have happened if it were someone else instead of me.

Gia Garcia
PHOENIX

Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org.

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This opinion has been edited for length and can be read in full online at https://tinyurl.com/4b53hpsu.

POLITICS

Public interest before private gain

When public officials control the flow of federal dollars, they also carry the responsibility to protect the public interest above private gain. That's what makes recent defense-related moves in Arizona's 8th Congressional District worth a closer look.

Rep. Abe Hamadeh recently met with representatives of the Israeli Defense Force to discuss "research and development."

Only a few months ago, Hamadeh inserted language into the National Defense Authorization Act tasking Peoria Mayor Jason Beck's company, TYR Tactical, with producing a research report on next-generation body armor for the U.S. Department of Defense. Beck had visited Hamadeh in Washington shortly before that

✦ See **Letters** on page **13**

Speak Up

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

LOCAL/STATE NEWS

Utah, Arizona governors discuss Colorado River water

"Overdevelopment is absolutely destroying this once beautiful desert state." — **Chris S. via Nextdoor**

"Definitely not for preserving the state of Arizona and definitely not for the people. It's all about the money and politics as usual." — **Rita Murray via Nextdoor**

Appeals court slows ACC effort to speed utility rate hikes

"The corporation commission doesn't work for the citizens of Arizona." — **Craig Bergman via story comment**

New SNAP work requirements could impact 124K in Arizona

"Limit what can be purchased with SNAP, like WIC. No junk, sweets, drinks (except real juices), no prepared meals, no deli, no bakery, no meats over $6/lb., etc. Keep SNAP for essentials only." — **Leanne Phifer via story comment**

Letters

• From page **12**

language appeared.

TYR Tactical already holds major federal contracts supplying gear to the military and law enforcement. Beck is also Peoria's mayor, which means he holds both public power and private interest in the same hand. None of that is illegal on its face, but the appearance of a conflict matters.

Taxpayers deserve to know whether congressional influence is being used to advance personal gain. Were any companies discussed in Hamadeh's IDF meeting? What oversight exists when a member of Congress promotes legislation that could benefit a friend's business? Has Mayor Beck ever formally recused himself from related city or federal matters?

These are reasonable, civic questions — not accusations. Our community deserves transparency from both men. Public trust depends on knowing that decisions about defense spending and federal research are guided by service to the district, not by personal or political connections.

In a democracy, sunlight isn't optional — it's the guarantee that power still serves the people.

Brent Peak
PHOENIX

Brent Peak is the co-chair of the progressive grassroots group, Northwest Valley Indivisible.

POLITICS

Shutdowns should cost officials their jobs

We, the citizens of the USA, employ and are paying the senators and representatives In Congress $174,500 each annually. We are paying the president of the USA $400,000 annually.

I propose a law that states the federal government can never be shut down. If the Congress and president cannot do their jobs within a year of past budget deadlines, then they all forfeit their jobs, paychecks, retirement funds and health benefits.

A special election would be held to bring in new representatives, senators and president.

J. Harp
SUN CITY

Editor's note: This writer is using a pen name.

POLITICS

Who's responsible for current political violence?

I've read with great amusement two letters to the editor placing the blame on President Trump for the poisonous political climate in our country.

The authors of these letters conveniently ignore that much of the poison started with the Democratic Party and its progressive wing. Just watch the news and pay attention to how Democratic Congressmen (persons), the governors of California and Illinois and several mayors say about our president.

Perhaps the authors of "Trump is responsible" can answer these questions.

Who's responsible for the violence against ICE? (The majority of Americans don't want immigrants who are here illegally.) Which party remained silent when Tesla dealerships and cars were firebombed and shot at? Wanted to defund the police? Which party has made numerous comments that have resulted in violence against the other party's leaders? Which party's comments have led to assassination attempts against Mr. Trump and the assassination of Charlie Kirk?

Trump, Vance, et al are not blameless. But they are not the main reason for the current political violence situation, in my opinion.

Eric Bourdo
SUN CITY WEST

POLITICS

Protest article sparks reader's ire

This letter refers to your 10/29/2025 front page article, Residents protest President Trump. There are so many things wrong here, that I'll try to limit my response to the main issues.

It starts with the obvious, placing a biased political attack like this on your front page, without any type of opposing dialogue. I thought I was reading the NYT.

Next, you interviewed a handful of liberal Democrats who in my opinion hate our president, and this dislike is the only verifiable part of the piece. What cries out here is why do they hate him and why are they mad?

The writing talks about Nazis and Hitler and kings, but I don't see the reasons they feel this way. The only possible assumption: there are no reasons, they're only mimicking the same verbal attacks they hear daily from the liberal news.

Why? Because this president, after four disastrous Biden years, has accomplished so much in just the first nine months of his second term. So much that liberal news sources have nowhere to go, but with lies and name-calling. I have never seen any king work as hard as President Trump.

Finally, I have two words for the folks you interviewed in your article, get informed! This is not the Democratic Party that they and their parents grew up with. I challenge them to watch something other than CNN and MSNBC. For a week or two, watch people like Sean Hannity, Jesse Watters, Laura Ingraham, etc., on FOX News. Take notes and then come back and tell us when and where they were being dishonest.

Paul Cahill
SUN CITY

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POLITICS

Response to letter on political temperature

Regarding the letter, "Political temperature letters make me laugh," sent in by Jean Goncalves:

With all due respect to Ms. Goncalves, I would be thrilled if President Trump would cure cancer tomorrow. Instead, he slashed funding for pediatric cancer research.

Not to mention this latest SNAP punishment among many other direct assaults on the American people. In my opinion, the utter cruelty of this administration is unconscionable. So sad.

By the way, I live in Sun City West and I am happy to see opinions from all around Arizona because we are all Americans. Thank you.

Connie Morrison
SUN CITY WEST

BUSINESS

PHOENIX

Ace Hardware shopping center on Bell Road rezoned

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Part of the shopping center with an Ace Hardware at the northeast corner of 43rd Avenue and Bell Road was approved for a rezone by the Phoenix City Council on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

There is a sign posted outside the Ace Hardware store indicating that it is closing.

The zoning change is a step toward keeping the property commercial rather than turning it into apartments and could signal different commercial tenants in the future.

The rezone creates a Planned Unit Development, rather than the existing Planned Shopping Center designation. The six-acre parcel does not include the entire shopping center. It includes the Ace Hardware, Dollar Tree and Mega Furniture store.

During an August meeting in front of the Deer Valley Village Planning Committee, development lawyer Nick Wood called the PSC designation, created in 2004, archaic and too restrictive, according to the minutes of the meeting. The property owner, Redland Holding, LLC, wants more flexibility for what could be built in the future, Wood said.

Wood also told the committee that his team had received calls from apartment developers interested in turning the center into an apartment complex but said the property owner wishes to keep it commercial.

Phoenix City Council unanimously approved the rezone, as did the Phoenix Planning Commission and the Deer Valley Village Planning Committee.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.



Part of the shopping center with an ACE Hardware at the northeast corner of 43rd Avenue and Bell Road was approved for a rezone by the Phoenix City Council last week. The store now has a sign outside indiciating it is closing. (Courtesy Ace Hardware)

DINING

Prescott-based restaurant group Vivili opening three downtown Phoenix locations

Prescott-based restaurant group Vivili Hospitality Group is bringing its signature approach to hospitality to downtown Phoenix with a $4 million multi-concept investment near Roosevelt Row at First and Portland streets, the company announced in a news release. Construction is underway on Hero, PIZZANISTA! and Bar Saint Bruno, with the first opening planned for early 2026.

The expansion marks the next chapter for founder Skyler Reeves, whose people-first philosophy has turned Vivili into a regional success story built on community, consistency and genuine connection. Vivili employs more than 125 people across five restaurants — La Planchada, The Barley Hound, Rosa's Pizzeria in Downtown Prescott, Rosa's Pizzeria in Prescott Valley and Taco Don's. Reeves also founded The County Seat, which he sold to a new operator earlier this year. Together, these concepts have helped establish Prescott as one of Arizona's most talked-about small-town dining destinations.

Now, Reeves and his team are bringing that same spirit south with three distinct hospitality concepts. Hero will be located on First and Roosevelt Streets in downtown Phoenix, while PIZZANISTA! and Bar Saint Bruno will debut directly across the way.

Hero

Hero, a 2,800-square-foot Italian restaurant with an additional 2,500-square-foot patio, celebrates handmade pasta, timeless cocktails and genuine hospitality. Designed as a lively neighborhood spot, it blends the energy of an Italian trattoria with the warmth of a local favorite.

PIZZANISTA!

PIZZANISTA!, a 1,200-square-foot fast-casual pizza shop that serves slices and pies, comes to Arizona through a collaboration with legendary skateboarder Salman Agah, founder of the original PIZZANISTA! in Los Angeles' Arts District. Known for its cult following and creative partnerships with brands like Vans and Thrasher Magazine, the Phoenix location channels the concept's street-culture roots with quick and casual indoor seating, and limited-edition merch drops, pop-ups and art-driven events that reflect Roosevelt Row's creative energy.

Bar Saint Bruno

Bar Saint Bruno, a 1,600-square-foot late-night cocktail bar tucked behind PIZZANISTA!, was inspired by one of Reeves' late industry mentors. The moody, intimate space is designed for conversation and connection, serving classic cocktails made with care in a setting that feels familiar from the first visit.

"Downtown Phoenix just feels real to me," Reeves stated in a news release. "I've had a place here for years now, and I spend a lot of time walking around, meeting people, seeing how much heart this area has. I didn't want to parachute in; I wanted to build something that belongs here. Hero, PIZZANISTA! and Bar Saint Bruno are places for the neighborhood, not just in the neighborhood."

Vivili has partnered with John Sofio and award-winning Built Inc. to design and MCI Builders to build all three concepts. Both firms bring extensive experience in hospitality projects and have been key collaborators in translating Vivili's creative vision for Phoenix. Reeves also partnered with long-time friend and the "Godfather of the LA cocktail scene," Vincenzo Marianello, to collaborate on the cocktail program, and tapped Yuji Iwasa to lead as culinary director and develop the food menu for Hero.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Duet hires Dr. Melissa Boydston as executive director

Achievement



Dr. Melissa L. Boydston (Submitted photo/Lindsay Hansen)

Duet: Partners In Health & Aging announces Dr. Melissa L. Boydston has been hired as executive director.

"We are thrilled to welcome Melissa as Duet's new executive director," said Cheryl Plewa, board president. "Her personal connection to caregiving and her proven record of leading with both heart and strategy embody the essence of Duet's mission. Melissa brings the vision, energy, and collaborative spirit that will guide us into an inspiring new chapter of growth and community impact."

Boydston brings extensive experience in education, philanthropy and community development. Most recently, she served as senior vice president of Community Impact and Engagement at Valley of the Sun United Way, where she led regional initiatives designed to strengthen outcomes across Maricopa County. In this role, she worked closely with nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and private-sector partners to align efforts, share resources, and drive measurable results in health, housing, education, and workforce development. Her work included efforts to improve quality of life and access to resources for seniors, supporting their independence, dignity, and overall well-being.

"What first drew me to Duet was how genuine this organization is in the way it lives its mission," said Boydston. "There's something really powerful about the idea of partnering; partnering with older adults, caregivers, and communities, walking alongside them in a way that's grounded in dignity and connection. I'm excited to work with such a compassionate team and community and to contribute to the meaningful impact Duet makes every day."

Earlier in her career, Boydston worked in higher education, focusing on access, student success and leadership development. Her professional journey reflects a lifelong dedication to expanding opportunity and fostering collaboration across sectors.

Boydston earned her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Master of Education in Community College and Higher Education from Northern Arizona University, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication from Arizona State University. She also holds a Certificate in Nonprofit Executive Leadership from ASU's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation.

Plewa added, "Throughout her career, Melissa has remained committed to helping communities imagine and build stronger, more connected systems of support and where every person, including older adults, has the opportunity to live with health, independence and dignity."

Duet is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote health and well-being through vitally needed services to homebound adults, family caregivers and grandfamilies. Duet's free-of-charge services are available in the greater Phoenix area. To volunteer, donate or ask for help, go to www.duetaz.org or call 602-274-5022.





HONORS

Phoenix Chamber: 3 businesswomen are 2025 Athena Award recipients

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Greater Phoenix Chamber has announced the 2025 Athena private sector, public sector, and young professional award recipients at its 38th annual Athena Awards, according to a news release.

Grenee Martacho, CEO of Concord General Contracting, was awarded the 2025 Athena Award in the private sector.

Elvy Barton, water and forest sustainability senior manager, Salt River Project, earned the 2025 Athena Award in the public sector.

Brandie Reiner, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers' Arizona Chapter, took home the 2025 Athena Young Professional Award.

The Athena Awards, an internationally prized honor through Athena International, recognizes women across the Valley for achievements in leadership, community service, and mentoring.

Martacho said her award demonstrates everything she' ever worked hard for — including all the failures she's had, and also the successes.

"I think often, we get down on ourselves as leaders, and we wake up asking, 'Am I doing enough?,'" Martacho stated. "You question yourself a lot as a leader. The entire Athena experience has allowed me to self-reflect on the type of leader I am and to know that even though days are hard, I am still being successful."

Martacho is considered a trailblazer in her industry, the release states. With 20 years of experience, she focuses heavily on mentorship and professional growth and tries to be a champion for women in a traditionally male-dominated field.



The Greater Phoenix Chamber has announced three award recipients from its 38th annual Athena Awards. From the left are Athena Young Professional Award winner Brandie Reiner, Private Sector winner Grenee Martacho a Public Sector winner Elvy Barton. (Courtesy of Greater Phoenix Chamber)

Before Barton joined SRP, she worked as a senior policy advisor at the Arizona Legislature, covering natural resource, water, and environmental policy issues. She serves as a board member for the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, as the Forest Climate Working Group co-chair of the Public Lands Committee and is SRP's Political Involvement Committee chair.

Reiner is an advocate and policy leader dedicated to advancing equity. She has championed legislation that expands behavioral health access, strengthens the social work profession and advances inclusion for historically underserved communities.

Martacho, Barton, and Reiner were chosen from 11 Athena finalists selected from a large group of nominees.

The other Private Sector finalists were Jessica Berger, founder and CEO of Bundle x Joy; Sonya Engle, COO of Sonora Quest Labs and Heather Lennon, owner and founder of Imagine General Contracting and Development.

The other Public Sector finalists were Debbie Esparza, the CEO emerita of YWCA Metro Phoenix; Melinda Gulick, the CEO of First Things First and Sintra Hoffman, president and CEO of WESTMARC.

The other Young Professional finalists were Breanna Naegeli, dean of the Honors College & Global Education Programs at Grand Canyon University and Christina Ngo, assistant vice president of social embeddedness at Arizona State University.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Big Brothers, Big Sisters has new CEO

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona has announced the permanent appointment of Debbie Castillo-Smith as its CEO, effective Nov. 20, according to a news release.

Castillo-Smith has served as BBBSAZ's interim CEO since April of this year, helping keep the agency on-mission during this transition period. In her permanent role, she will continue guiding the organization into its next chapter of growth, impact, and innovation, the release states.

Castillo-Smith has been part of the BBBSAZ team since September 2007 and has served in a variety of roles throughout her tenure, including working directly with matches, recruiting volunteers, and facilitating trainings for volunteers, parents/guardians and staff.

Arizona State University Leadership Institute product, she was honored as a Sun Devil 100 in 2024.

Castillo-Smith has been matched with five Little Sisters over the years and strongly believes in the life-changing power of supportive, consistent relationships, the release states.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona is part of the organization that claims to be the nation's largest donor and volunteer-supported mentoring network, creating meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18.

EXPLORING ARIZONA

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Williams resort offering winter weekend getaway

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Travelers may need a "one horse open sleigh" to reach the holiday haven awaiting in Northern Arizona at Backland Luxury Nature Resort in Williams, according to a news release.

The luxury "glamping" resort, spread across 160 acres of private land, at 7,000-feet elevation, surrounded on all sides by pristine National Forest lands and located only 20 minutes outside Williams, will be hosting Santa as part of a holiday weekend event.

The North Pole Experience is set to run Friday through Sunday, Dec. 5 to 7, at Backland Luxury Nature Resort, 6929 E. Rosilda Springs Road, Williams. The release bills the event as "where Santa's Workshop meets the northern wilderness."

The all-inclusive two-night stay, meals and activities package suites start at $1,460 with per person pricing at $180 per child and $175 per adult. Those can booked throughtravelbackland.com/activity-booking

The experience includes chef-prepared holiday meals, festive treats, and exclusive North Pole Experience-designed activities especially for Backland guests.

Get hands-on time in Santa's Workshop, enjoy cozy evenings under the stars and even get some 1-on-1 time with Santa himself.

The itinerary includes exploring the property and a full dinner Friday afternoon and evening, followed by s'mores by the fire with "Santa's Elves" under Backland's dark skies, and the "Santa Lore & the Aurora" storytelling experience that brings the legend of the North Pole to life.



The North Pole Experience is set to run Friday through Sunday, Dec. 5 to 7, at Backland Luxury Nature Resort in Williams. A news release bills the all-ages event as "where Santa's Workshop meets the northern wilderness." (Courtesy of Power Suit PR)

Saturday's continental breakfast kicks off "Elf Workshop Day." Throughout the day, guests rotate through enchanting stations led by Santa's elves. Lunch is provided.

A toy workshop, helping the elves with holiday creations, will be at one station.

There's also the opportunity to help decorate cookies and enjoy fresh treats, play games, learn Santa lore, and discover Backland nature secrets at Elf Nature University, write heartfelt letters to Santa on special North Pole stationery in the "Mail Room" and for children to talk about their wishes and dreams to the big guy himself at the "Santa Experience."

Each child is presented a special gift from Santa, though he needs parents help for this, the news release states.

Christmas dinner is at 5 p.m. — A classic holiday meal with all the fixings — followed by Christmas bedtime stories.

Sunday, Dec. 7, the 8 a.m. is a continental breakfast that's a farewell meal with some final photo moments.

OUTDOORS

Arizona ranks as 18th-best camping state in survey

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Arizona didn't crack the top 15 in a recent study of best states for camping.

The LawnLove.com study ranked 2025's best states for camping, placing Arizona 18th overall in the study, which compared all 50 states based on five categories.

More specifically, a news release states, the study looked at the acreage of state and national parks, access to campsites and RV parks and average Hipcamp rates, among 21 total metrics.

Hipcamp is an online marketplace for booking campsites, RV parks, "glamping" stays and private land camping experiences via a mobile app and website.

California takes first place, offering diverse destinations for campers of all kinds that range from Big Sur to Yosemite.

Texas ranked No. 2.

The Grand Canyon State ranked ahead of Utah and New Mexico in overall scoring, but well behind Colorado, which is No. 5.

Arizona's best showing in terms of rank was to place 11th in the accessibility category.

Its worst showing was safety, where the state ranks 48th. Only California had more National Park deaths from 2014 to 2024 than Arizona, with its many cliffs and 100-degree-plus days.

Arizona ranked No. 27 in terms of overall campsite quality. The state ranks 12th for supplies and 23rd in affordability.

To learn more about the data behind the rankings, go to tinyurl.com/3pna58k8.

FROM THE COVER

Clubs

• From page **1**

The $14.79 investment outweighs the national Boys and Girls Club return of $10.32 worth of benefits, according to Anthony Evans, center director for the institute and study author.

According to the study sent in a release, among those 20,000 youth and teens served, 75% were living below the federal poverty level and 72% were qualified for free or reduced lunch.

"What's most important is we're helping working parents give their kids a safe place for their child to be outside of school time," Mintz said. "Schools and families can't do it alone. We have to be a catalyst to have people wake up and do this together."

The study showed of the total estimated socioeconomic value, $210.8 million comes from annual productivity from 5,640 working households supported by affordable after-school care, the largest single category of benefit.

"Today, kids spend 100 more hours in the clubs than in the schools," Mintz said. "The kids need exposure and access to know what is out there for them in the future,"

Health and well-being is one of the Boys and Girls Clubs' four pillars for success. Over 729,000 meals and snacks were served to the kids according to the study.

The economic impact the study showed was $15.7 million from improved nutrition, $22.4 million from physical activity, and $80.1 million from youth tobacco-use prevention, according to the release.

"We are one of the largest hot meal providers in the state," Mintz said. "We also have to make sure the kids are more physically active,"

"Our newest program is our whole child behavioral and mental health program," Mintz added. "We don't look at it as counseling for the kids. We look at it as giving the kids another tool in preparing them for life."



A staff worker with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley works with kids on a project at one of their club locations. (Courtesy of the Boys and Girls Club)

Another benefit in the release was $14.9 million in increased lifetime earnings from higher graduation rates. The study showed that 95% of the clubs' teens are projected to graduate, outpacing school district averages by more than 6%.

"Academic success is very important to us," Mintz said. "We are seeing great academic progress in math and in reading."

"We're also proud of our STEM program we provide," Mintz added. "Between tutoring, STEM enrichment and our literacy programs, it results in higher academic engagement and graduation rates."

The study also showed a $48 million impact from operations, helping to support more than 550 jobs and $34.4 million in labor income statewide.

"We begin with them in third grade to start career exploration," Mintz said. "We also work with AZYouthforce, we work with different companies who offer paid internships, and we give them experiences in different industries."

Mintz considers her organization as a midsize employer, employing approximate 180 full time employees of about 600 total employees. They have no money in the state budget and rely on individual donations and corporate partnerships.

"We also rely on volunteers as well," Mintz said. "Their time, talents and resources are always appreciated."

"We see a lot of employees who at one time came to the Boys and Girls Club as a child," Mintz added. "They see the importance of wanting to be a role model for the newer generation of kids."

Mintz really looks at the return on investment in a different way.

"The return for me is making sure kids are off the streets," Mintz said. "For one kid in juvenile detention it costs nearly $215,000. The cost for a child to be here at the Boys and Girls Club is about $1,200. So we feel the investment is worth it to us."

Evans said while numbers may be down as far as the dollar community benefit from the last report in 2020-21, there are reasons for that.

"In 2020-21, BGCV was estimated to generate $15.60 of benefits in Maricopa County for every $1 invested in the operations and capital expenditure of their 27 clubs and local program services center. That's still more than the latest report, which uses data for 30 clubs," Evans said.

"We have refined and enhanced the method of the studies since the 2016 and 2021 studies," Evans said. "The total number of clubs, members and households served varied significantly as the 2016 study was based on 13 clubs and the latest report is based on 30 clubs."

Deaths

• From page **9**

required companies that do contracted work with the city to have and implement a heat safety plan "that give attention to shade, rest and water," Hondula said.

Hondula highlighted efforts from volunteers, including those who stationed at hiking trailheads each weekend during the heat season of May-September to help educate hikers about heat safety.

One new volunteer program this summer was a partnership with the American Red Cross to conduct a heat relief education campaign to knock on doors at mobile and manufactured home communities, informing them about available programs to stay cool or help pay their energy bills. Mobile and manufactured homes account for about 5% of the city's housing stock but account for more than 25% indoor heat-related deaths, Hondula said.

Milne thanked Circle the City, Street Medicine Phoenix, Terros Health and Arizona State University nursing students who provided free medical care on site at the 24/7 respite center.

4th-hottest summer on record

While summer heat in 2025 was not nearly as severe the record 2024 summer in Phoenix, it was still Phoenix's fourth-hottest meteorological summer (June-August) on record, according to the U.S. National Weather Service. The average temperate during the summer in Phoenix in 2025 was 96.2 degrees, which was 2.7 degrees cooler than the 2024 summer.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

FUN & GAMES

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COMICS & FUN

ZAP! WOW!

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JUMBLE

By Tribune Content Agency

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

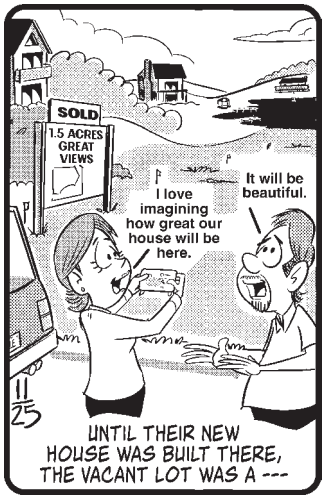
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEEEM

TDOIT

UGTAOE

SFLISO



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Ans. here: " ____ " ____ ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIANO SKIER BANNER NEGATE
Answer: On the new clerk's first day at the lingerie shop, the manager had her use a — TRAINING BRA

MARMADUKE

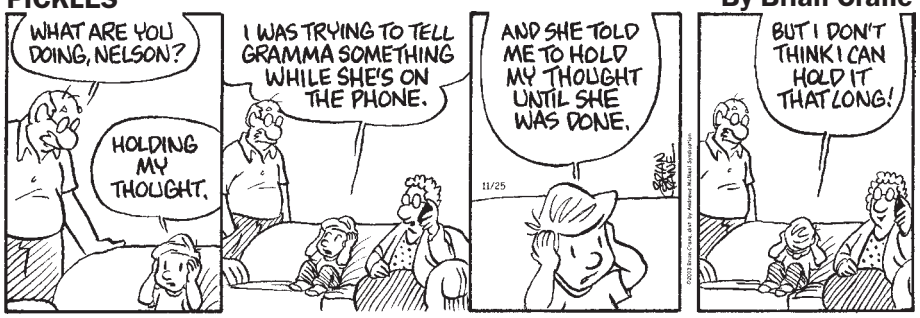
By Bradley Jay Anderson



"Did you bring your food dish over here for any particular reason?"

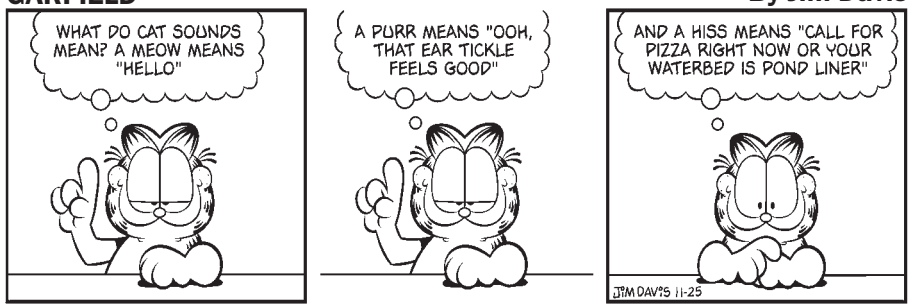
PICKLES

By Brian Crane



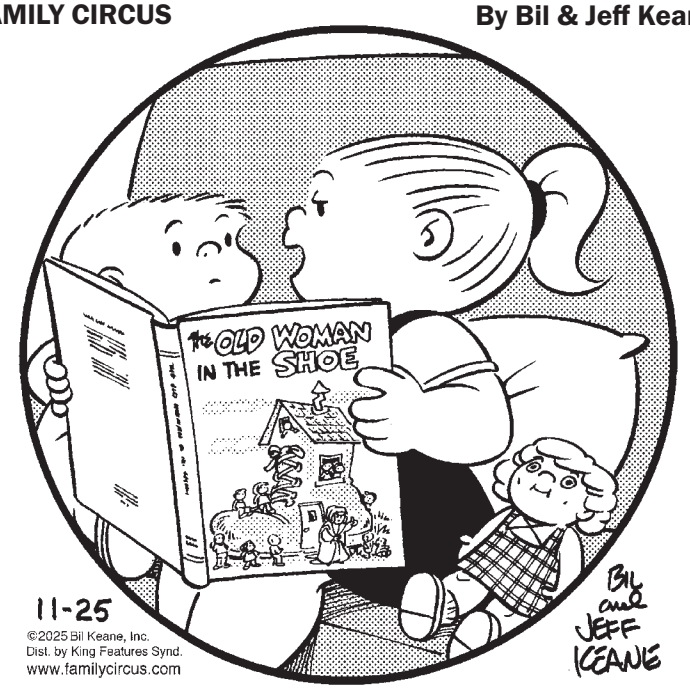
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil & Jeff Keane



"When it got cold they moved to their winter home— a fuzzy slipper."

BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



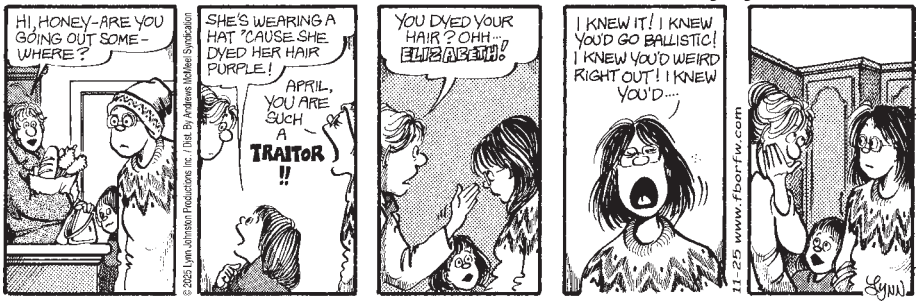
BEETLE BAILEY

By Greg Walker, Brian Walker & Neal Walker



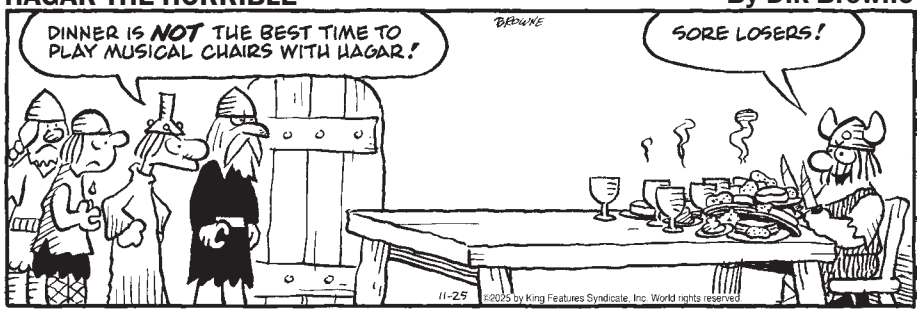
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



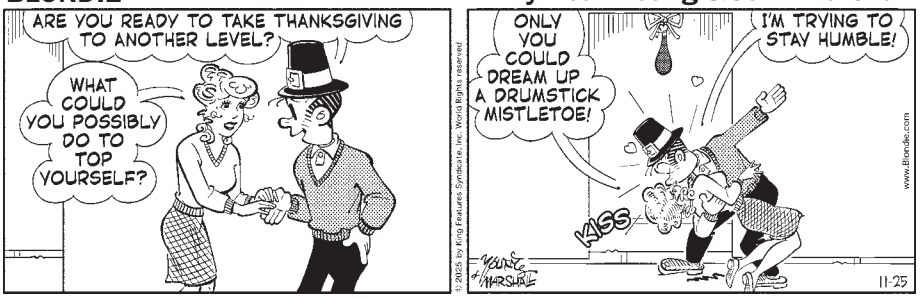
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



LOOKING BACK

Nov. 25

Nov. 25 was the 329th day of 2025.

On Nov. 25, 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery after a funeral procession through Washington, D.C. An estimated 1 million people lined the somber procession route.

Also on this date:

In 1783, following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the last remaining British troops in the United States were evacuated from New York City.

In 1961, the USS Enterprise was commissioned; it was the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and remains the longest naval vessel ever built, at 1,123 feet (342 meters).

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by two sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle that eventually saw him repatriated to his father in Cuba.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif that erupted while he was interviewing detainees, becoming the first American combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to a victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of authoritarian rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

In 2020, Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona died of a heart attack at age 60. Maradona led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title before later struggling with cocaine use and obesity.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- Football Hall of Fame coach **Joe Gibbs** is 85.
- Actor **John Larroquette** is 78.
- Dance judge **Bruno Tonioli** (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 70.
- Musician **Amy Grant** is 65.
- Football Hall of Famer **Cris Carter** is 60.
- Rapper-producer **Erick Sermon** is 57.
- Actor **Jill Hennessy** is 57.
- Actor **Christina Applegate** is 54.
- Former NFL quarterback **Donovan McNabb** is 49.
- Television personality **Jenna Bush Hager** and twin sister **Barbara Pierce Bush**, daughters of former President George W. Bush, are 44.
- Soccer manager and former player **Xabi Alonso** is 44.
- Actor **Stephanie Hsu** is 35.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

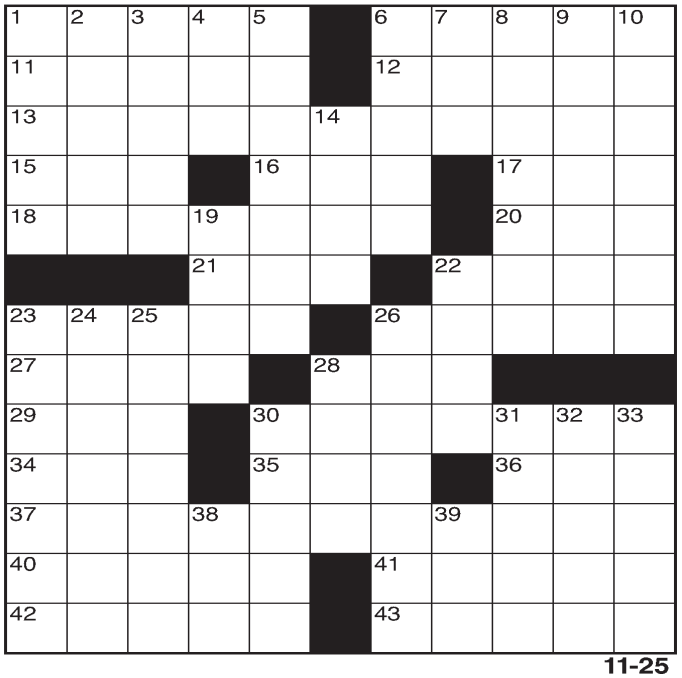
1 Casual eateries
6 Highland lakes
11 Martini garnish
12 Parcel out
13 Entertain
15 Conclude
16 Musical note
17 Do a yard job
18 Break
20 Lingerie item
21 Good serve
22 Wolfish look
23 Fire starter
26 Took on
27 Carpet fastener
28 Cruise in the movies
29 Had supper
30 Shipping stop
34 Deep hole
35 This miss
36 Barn sound
37 In fighting trim
40 Door sign
41 National symbol
42 Like cliffs
43 Goes through

DOWN

1 Shrink in fear
2 Flared dress
3 Locates
4 Genesis name
5 Feeling the ocean motion
6 Soup server
7 Outdated
8 Mountaineer
9 Award winner
10 Cruise worker
14 Staff symbol
19 Urban oasis
22 Walk unevenly
23 Paper fasteners
24 Clinic customer
25 Artwork overlay
26 Compulsive collector
28 New driver, often
30 Staff symbol
31 Last Greek letter
32 Writer Dahl
33 Sounds
38 Once called
39 West of films

S	A	P	S			C	A	P	S	
T	R	A	I	N		E	X	A	C	T
P	A	S	T	A		D	I	S	H	Y
A	B	S		T	R	E	S	S	E	S
T	I	E	P	I	N	S		E	M	O
	A	D	I	O	S		E	D	E	N
		T	E	N		S	A	T		
L	A	H	R		B	E	T	H	S	
A	P	E		C	O	N	S	E	N	T
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E	X	I	L	E		U	H	U	R	A
S	E	M	I	S		P	I	C	K	S
	S	E	T	S			S	K	Y	E

Yesterday's answer



11-25

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

POSING FOR A PICTURE — **Solution: 8 letters**

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

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Arms, Camera, Candid, Chin, Confident, Cross, Emotion, Engagement, Expression, Face, Family, Flash, Formal, Friends, Hands, Jawline, Legs, Lens, Light, Look, Makeup, Model, Movement, Natural, Photogenic, Photographer, Photoshoot, Position, Profile, Relaxed, Rotate, Selfie, Shift, Shoulders, Smile, Stand, Studio, Tilt, Torso, Waist

Yesterday's Answer: Radiographer

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Tribune Crossword

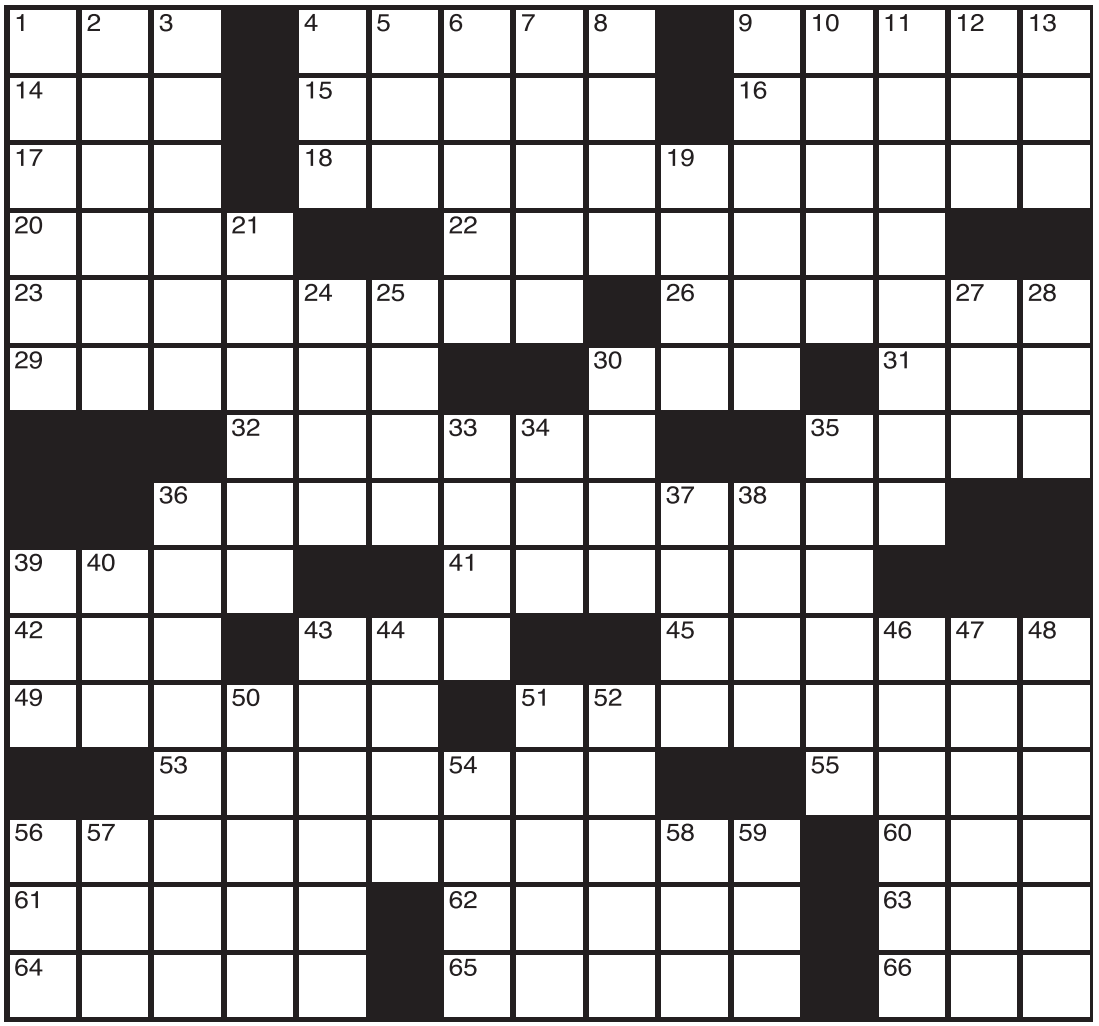
EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 Twosome
4 Long-tailed parrot
9 Pitch, as a tent
14 Mork's planet
15 "Yay for me!"
16 "When the moon hits your eye" condition
17 Soda can opener
18 Debt security sold to raise funds for World War I
20 "Orinoco Flow" singer
22 Glacier-forming periods
23 Unexpected and undeserved fortune
26 Airport surface
29 Essential login info
30 Ray gun sound
31 iPad program
32 Perfect place
35 Earnest entreaty
36 Start of the stock exchange trading day, or a feature of 18-, 23-, 51-, and 56-Across
39 Abundant supply
41 Little house, in Spanish
42 "I'd rather __"
43 Tiny ammo
45 Apply a cipher to
49 Unit of coffee
51 Singer dubbed the "Mother of the Blues"
53 Greek goddess of the hunt
55 Bunco trio
56 Weekly promotion in some Tex-Mex restaurants
60 Fla. NBA team
61 Any ABBA member
62 Made off with
63 Previously named
64 Mexican bucks
65 From Nepal, e.g.
66 The best is __ to come

DOWN

1 End of a school email address
2 Planet between Saturn and Neptune
3 "I'm fine with that"
4 The Brewers, in box scores
5 Former NPR host Shapiro
6 Three-dimensional
7 Smart __
8 "Now __ talking!"
9 Wage inequality
10 Natural pigment darker than ocher
11 Like shoes that cause blisters, perhaps
12 Ornate flowerpot
13 Thin sock worn to try on shoes
19 The "TT" of TTFN
21 Sudden
24 Low-calorie, in ads
25 Japanese soup noodle
27 Mimic
28 Tax prep pro
30 Zigs and __
33 "__ or it didn't happen!"
34 Cookbook writer Garten
35 Serene
36 Runs faster than
37 Order in a German pub
38 Active Sicilian volcano
39 Chain known for health products
40 Bud's bud in comedy
43 Narrow flat-topped hills
44 "Sacré __!"
46 Like some pungent dips
47 Official directive
48 Doily loop
50 Hobbit who travels to Mount Doom
51 Waters gently, as a houseplant
52 "Same here," formally
54 Wide flat-topped hill
56 Recipe amt.
57 Feeling of wonder
58 __ mode
59 Urge



By Theresa Brady & Gene Leganza

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11/25/25

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

11/22/25

COMICS & FUN

CHECK OUR OUR DIGITAL PUZZLES ONLINE

JUMBLE

By Tribune Content Agency

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLAFS

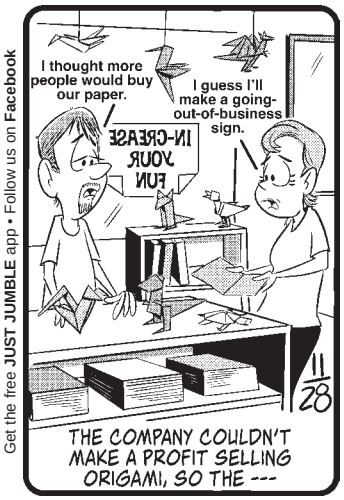
ESEGE

SBPIOH

DSEUND

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Get the free **JUST JUMBLE** app • Follow us on **Facebook**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BANJO KITTY HUDDLE CIRCUS
Answer: To avoid helping clean up, the mallard decided to — DUCK OUT

MARMADUKE

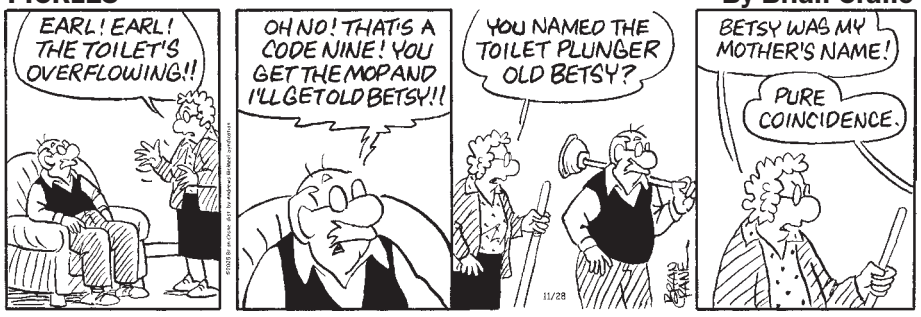
By Bradley Jay Anderson



"Yeah, he loves to watch football. Now we're going to look for a tailgate party."

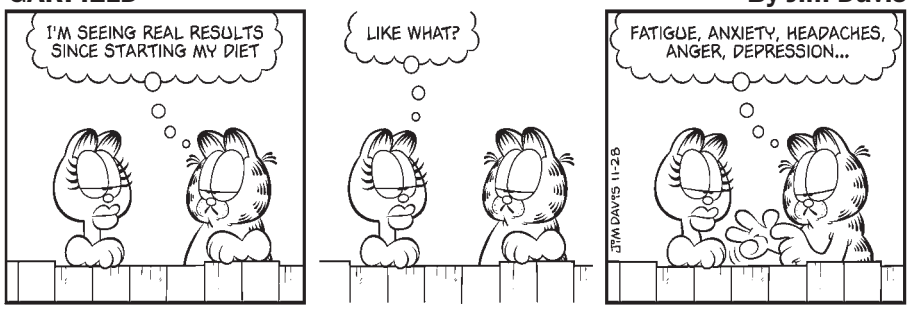
PICKLES

By Brian Crane



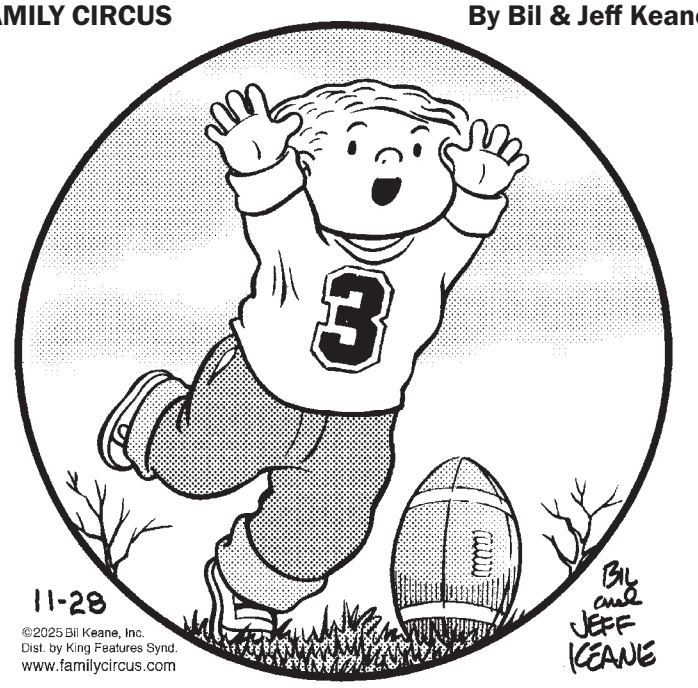
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil & Jeff Keane



"Hold up your goalposts, Daddy!"

BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



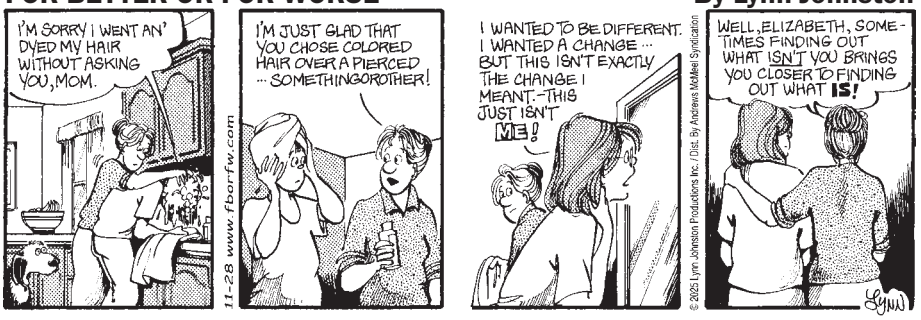
BEETLE BAILEY

By Greg Walker, Brian Walker & Neal Walker



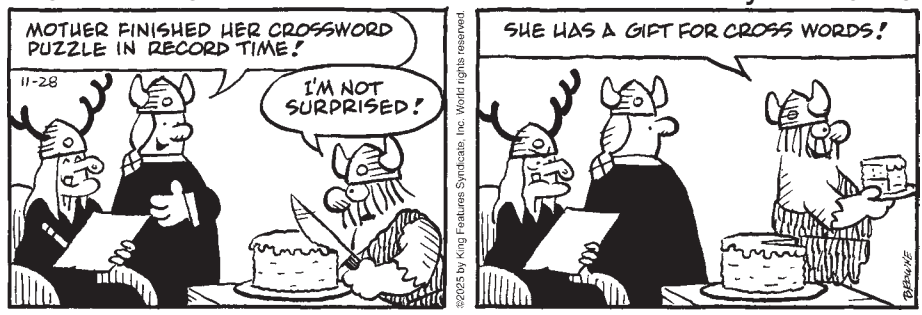
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



TODAY IN HISTORY

Nov. 28

Today is Friday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2025. There are 33 days left in the year. Today is Thanksgiving in the United States.

Today in history:

On Nov. 28, 1925, the Grand Ole Opry (known then as the WSM Barn Dance) debuted on radio station WSM in Nashville, Tennessee; it continues today as the longest-running radio broadcast in U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1942, fire engulfed the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, killing 492 people in the deadliest nightclub blaze ever.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin met in Tehran, Iran, for the first time to discuss Allied cooperation during World War II.

In 1961, halfback Ernie Davis of Syracuse University became the first Black college football player to be named winner of the Heisman Trophy.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in **July 1965,** sending back pictures of the red planet.

In 2001, Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegy Inc. backed out of an $8.4 billion takeover deal. (Enron filed for bankruptcy protection four days later.)

In 2022, Payton Gendron, a white gunman who massacred 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket, pleaded guilty to murder and hate-motivated terrorism charges in an agreement that gave him life in prison without parole.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- Recording executive **Berry Gordy Jr.** is 96.
- Football Hall of Famer **Paul Warfield** is 83.
- Former "Late Show" band leader **Paul Shaffer** is 76.
- Actor **Ed Harris** is 75.
- Actor **S. Epatha Merkerson** is 73.
- Actor **Judd Nelson** is 66.
- Film director **Alfonso Cuarón** is 64.
- Rock drummer **Matt Cameron** is 63.
- Comedian and talk show host **Jon Stewart** is 63.
- Actor **Colman Domingo** is 56.
- Musician **apl.de.ap** (Black Eyed Peas) is 51.
- Actor **Mary Elizabeth Winstead** is 41.
- R&B singer **Trey Songz** is 41.
- Actor **Karen Gillan** is 38.
- Actor-rapper **Bryshere Gray** is 32.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

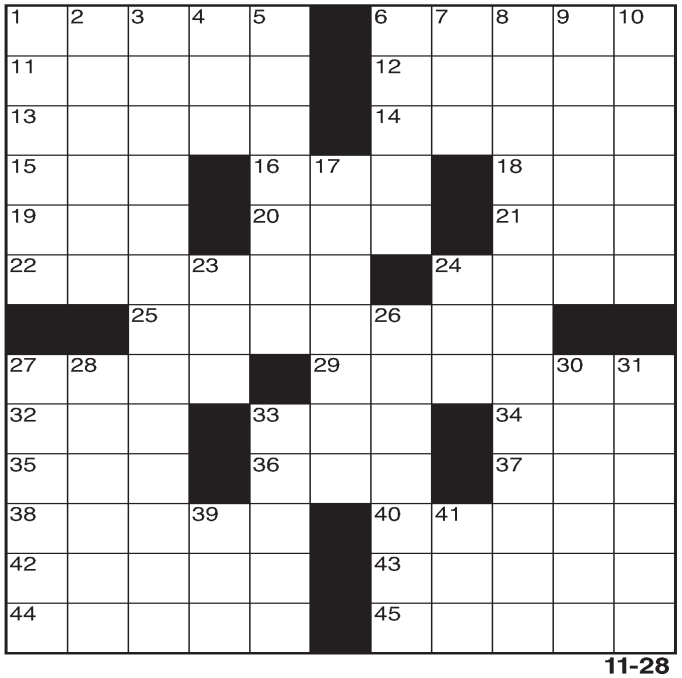
1 Mixes
6 Cheese choice
11 Doctrine
12 November, e.g.
13 Run-down
14 Start for muscular or mural
15 Sturdy wood
16 Back muscle
18 Chop up
19 Golf bag item
20 "Somewhat"
21 Sushi choice
22 Finally
24 Nile serpents
25 African runner
27 Adonis
29 Completely
32 Easter find
33 Tack on
34 FF opposite, on VCR remotes
35 Cheering cry
36 Horseshoe shape
37 Shoe shade
38 Studio sign
40 In itself
42 Draw out
43 More loyal
44 Company division
45 Ranch workers

DOWN

1 Layers
2 Social service
3 Over much time
4 No longer active: Abbr.
5 Salon worker
6 Forge worker
7 Took the title
8 Over little time
9 "Silkwood" star
10 Knitted wraps
17 Sitting on, as a horse
23 Inquire
24 Drama division
26 Thorough
27 Medal recipients
28 Kenya neighbor
30 Poked fun at
31 They have titles
33 Land units
39 Rocks in a bar
41 Historic time

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

Yesterday's answer



11-28

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'LANDMAN' (TV SERIES) **Solution: 10 letters**

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

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Ainsley, Ali, Angela, Ariana, Billy Bob, Boom, Chavez, Christian, Collie, Colm, Cooper, Dale, Demi, Drills, Feore, Fuel, Funny, Gas, Hamm, Jacob, James, Jon, Jordan, Larter, Lofland, Mark, Meraz, Michelle, Miller, Monty, Moore, M-Tex, Nathan, Norris, Oil Rigs, Paulina, Randolph, Rebecca, Rich, Road, Sheridan, Texas, Thornton, Tommy, Town, Wallace, Walt, West

Yesterday's Answer: Frozen

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367. Order now in time for the holidays!

Tribune Crossword

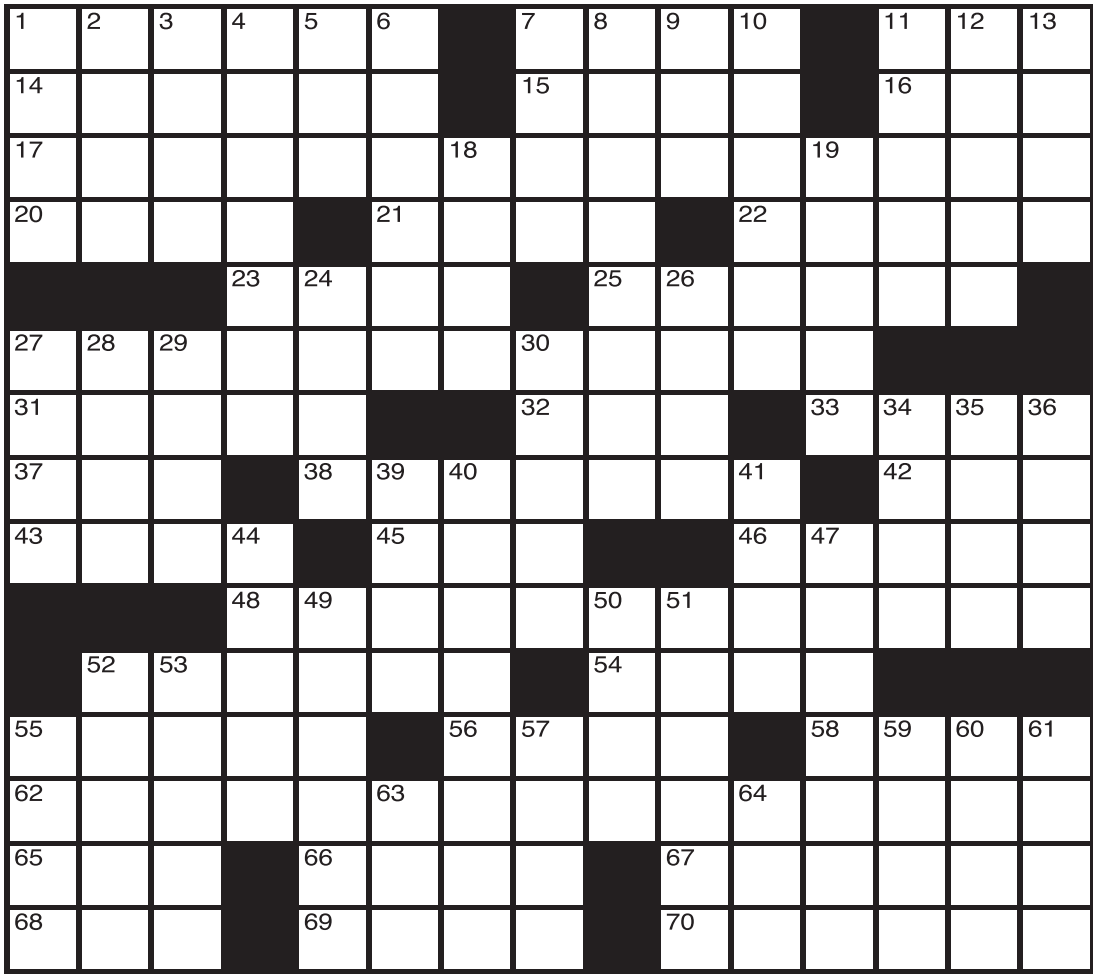
EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 “Good to go!”
7 Happy dances
11 Spice mixture
14 Water heater
15 Again
16 Actress de Armas
17 *Bucket list entries?
20 East, in Spanish
21 Had on
22 Oft-turned things in a spy thriller
23 Implored
25 Witty
27 *Result of being left off a guest list?
31 Show appreciation
32 Jewel
33 City choker
37 Broadcast
38 Made secret, in a way
42 Had oatmeal, say
43 Used cars?
45 B+, e.g.
46 “High School Musical” actor Zac
48 *Big victory for the Mets or the Yankees, e.g.?
52 Not commissioned
54 Environmentalist Brockovich
55 “To repeat … ”
56 Crowd sound
58 British tennis player Raducanu
62 “You need some time away from work,” and how to make the starred clues match their answers
65 __ out a win
66 Reusable shopping bag
67 Org. that might have a Mustang circling a track
68 Irate
69 Peepers
70 Indignant retort

DOWN

1 Qualified
2 “Number the Stars” novelist Lowry
3 Big moment in a pairs figure skating routine
4 Hit the snooze button, perhaps
5 Dragon roll fish
6 Masonry tool
7 Jaromír who is the oldest NHL player to record a hat trick
8 Passed on a bug to
9 Eur. land
10 Thief on “Dora the Explorer”
11 Spot for burners
12 Below
13 Low voice
18 Go-aheads
19 Rainwater diverters
24 Winnebago, e.g.
26 Flavor of green Skittles
27 Lead
28 Home of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
29 Part of a hand
30 Ecstasy’s opposite
34 Actress Helgenberger
35 Texter’s “Let’s look at this a different way”
36 Fellow
39 First number in Hawaiian ZIP codes
40 Grounded in reality
41 Grocery section
44 Always Morphing nail polish brand
47 Delicacy
49 App release
50 Out of power
51 Entry on a to-do list
52 Honshu port city
53 Bare
55 Tabloid pair
57 Needs to pay back
59 Comfy shoes, for short
60 Some design degs.
61 Natural hairstyle
63 “The Crown” actress Claire
64 NBA legend Ming



By Wendy L. Brandes

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11/28/25

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

11/26/25

PUZZLES FROM METRO CREATIVE SERVICES — PUZZLES — MORE PUZZLES @ YOURVALLEY.NET

HOROSCOPES

SAGITTARIUS -- Nov 23/Dec 21

Your ambitious streak is on fire right now, Sagittarius. Partnerships and acquisitions are very much within reach, so start conversations now. It's time to network as much as possible.

CAPRICORN -- Dec 22/Jan 20

You pride yourself on telling it like it is, Capricorn. But candor can sometimes be costly. A measured approach in a delicate situation this week can serve you well.

AQUARIUS -- Jan 21/Feb 18

Typically "what you see is what you get" is your mantra, Aquarius. Yet, this week you might hold something back to be a bit more mysterious. Others may not catch on right away.

PISCES -- Feb 19/Mar 20

Relationships take center stage in your life, Pisces. Talks of further commitment could come up more often than in the past. This is an important time.

ARIES -- Mar 21/Apr 20

Right now you are inspired to roll up your sleeves and clear away the clutter so you can focus on what counts, Aries. Your productivity soars this week.

TAURUS -- Apr 21/May 21

Your words will carry extra weight between this week and next, Taurus. Don't hold back on speaking about what is in your heart. You may navigate your way to romance.

GEMINI -- May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, this week you may feel energized to pursue new connections with family and friends. Plan a few long overdue catch-ups, and bask in that feeling of contentment.

CANCER -- Jun 22/Jul 22

Some may call you timid, Cancer, but not this week. You put all of yourself out there the next few days, and others may be hanging on your every word.

LEO -- Jul 23/Aug 23

Money is at the top of your priority list, Leo. You may be dreaming big or content to just make sense of finances that have gotten a bit off the rails.

VIRGO -- Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, it's all about honesty this week and letting others in. Don't sugarcoat things with the people you love. They will love you even if you're in need of some support.

LIBRA -- Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, release what is draining your energy, especially before the busy holiday season is in full force. Wrap up lingering projects and bow out of obligations that are stretching you too thin.

SCORPIO -- Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you are selective about your social circle, but stay open to new friendships. New allies bring surprising opportunities if you simply let them in.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

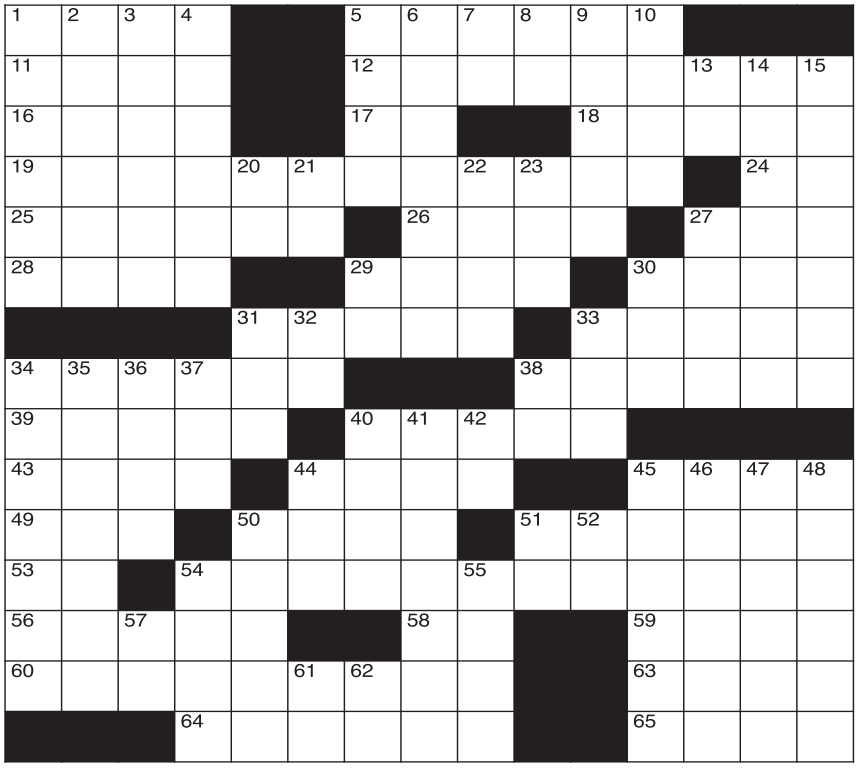
Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes.

ANSWER:

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

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular wine ___ Spumante
5. Greatly impressed
11. ___ and that
12. Uttered with passion
16. Boats
17. Veteran actor Harris
18. Casserole with game
19. Reprehensible acts
24. They precede C
25. Says under one's breath
26. Taxis
27. It transfers genetic info
28. NFL great Randy
29. Where college students sleep
30. Major European river
31. Taco condiment
33. -frutti
34. Polish city
38. Astronomy unit
39. Khoikhoin peoples
40. Bears QB Williams
43. Scrambled, fried, boiled
44. Price indicators
45. One-time world power
49. When you hope to get somewhere
50. Farm building
51. Choose carefully
53. Magnum was one
54. One who combines
56. Nursemaids
58. Partner to Pa
59. Notable river
60. Officially honors
63. Colorless compound
64. A fancy chair
65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. The central area in a building
2. Religion of Japan
3. Leggings
4. Officially distributes
5. Arabian Sea seaport
6. Spanish doctors
7. It cools your house
8. Currency of Poland
9. Slowly moves into
10. Days (Spanish)
13. Unit of volume
14. Emit
15. With two replaceable hydrogens
20. Title for a man
21. Equally
22. Scarlett's home
23. One-time tech titan
27. Subway dwellers
29. One-tenth of a liter
30. Central European river
31. Distress signal
32. Expression of sympathy
33. The bill in a restaurant
34. Football equipment
35. Dance music
36. Russian river
37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___
38. Gym class
40. Automobiles
41. Roman honorific
42. Losses in sports
44. Skin tone in summer
45. Distant planet
46. Critical humor
47. Illegally obtained
48. Go back over
50. Home appliance brand
51. Unit of radioactivity
52. Home of the Flyers
54. Short official note
55. Emit coherent radiation
57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)
62. Toward

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

WEATHER

Nice weekend ahead

Dry and tranquil weather conditions are expected through the remainder of the week with slightly above normal temperatures. A weather system arriving late Sunday and Monday is expected to bring much cooler temperatures and chances for precipitation focused more over the Arizona high terrain, according to information from the National Weather Service.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 75. Calm wind.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. Calm wind.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Calm wind.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 5 mph.

Sunday night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly after 11 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Monday: A 20% chance of showers. Sunny, with a high near 68. East southeast wind around 5 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon.

Monday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Calm wind.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 67. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

ALMANAC

SUNRISE

Friday: 7:11 a.m.
Saturday: 7:12 a.m.
Sunday: 7:13 a.m.
Monday: 7:14 a.m.

SUNSET

Friday: 5:20 p.m.
Saturday: 5:20 p.m.
Sunday: 5:20 p.m.
Monday: 5:20 p.m.

ODD NEWS

Bald eagle drops cat through windshield

By Corey Williams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A motorist in western North Carolina escaped injury when the carcass of a cat crashed into the passenger side of her front windshield along a highway near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

In a call to 911, the unidentified driver on U.S. Route 74 in Swain County, near Bryson City, told a dispatcher that a bald eagle dropped the cat.

Bryson City is about 65 miles southwest of Asheville.

It's not clear if the feline slipped from the eagle's talons or was discarded simply because the big bird didn't have a taste for it.

"You may not believe me, but I just had a bald eagle drop a cat through my windshield," the incredulous driver said on the recorded 911 call. "It absolutely shattered my windshield."

Any reservations about calling in such a story were put to rest when the dispatcher calmly responded, "OK. I do believe you, honestly," then laughed.



This photo provided by N. C. State Highway Patrol Public Information Office shows a smashed windshield after a cat carcass crashed into the car along a highway near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. (N. C. State Highway Patrol Public Information Office via AP)

The driver relayed that another person also saw the cat drop, remarking, "He's like, 'That is the craziest thing I've ever seen.' I'm like, 'Really?'"

The dispatcher offered some assurance, saying, "Oh my goodness. Let's see. I've heard crazier."

"Well, that's terrifying," the caller said, to which the dispatcher replied with more nervous laughter, "Yeah."

After getting the driver's location, the dispatcher said she would send the Highway Patrol to do a report. "Another question," the dispatcher asked. "Is the cat still alive?"

The caller said it wasn't, but noted that the cat was on the side of the road and not in her car.

"Ok, I have to ask just to make sure," the dispatcher said.

Kendrick Weeks, Western Wildlife Diversity Program supervisor for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, said the cat dropped on the car could have been roadkill scavenged by the eagle.

"But they can take animals the size of a cat," he said. "It is much harder for them to take a live cat than a dead cat. They usually don't prey on something they don't find palatable. And, scavenging is a common behavior in bald eagles."

Eagles and other raptors can drop prey for several reasons, including having a poor grip or if the prey is struggling and the birds are trying to prevent injury to themselves, Weeks added.

Prey can also be dropped if a raptor is being harassed by another raptor or the prey becomes too heavy to continue carrying.

Bald eagles are native to North Carolina and most of North America.

Their populations have been increasing, and there are more than 200 nesting pairs in North Carolina. The birds can weigh anywhere from 6 1/2 to 13 1/2 pounds and have wingspans of 6 to 7 feet, Weeks told The Associated Press.

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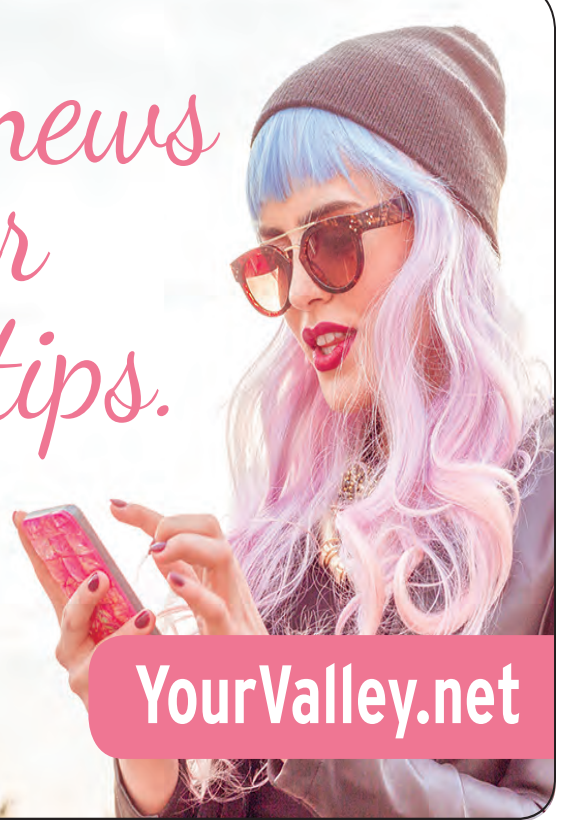
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TREND

Bible sales keep growing, even as many Americans lose their religion

(AP) — Many Americans may have lost faith in organized religion, but according to recent data, they still love the Good Book.

As of September, Bible sales were up 11% this year over 2024, part of a continuing boom in Bible sales. That includes 2.4 million sold in September 2025 as part of a surge that coincided with the death of conservative Christian activist Charlie Kirk, according to data from Circana, a company that tracks book sales. All told, more than 18 million Bibles have been sold so far this year.

"Sales for Bibles have been steadily growing in the U.S. since 2021 and have set unprecedented annual sales records since 2022," Brenna Connor, an industry analyst at Circana BookScan, told RNS in an email. "2024 marked a 20-year high for Bible sales in the U.S., and 2025 is on track to surpass these levels, underscoring the growing interest in religious content among U.S. consumers."

Among the bestsellers are an economy version of the English Standard Bible — the top seller, according to Circana— the Adventure Bible for kids and the She Reads Truth Bible, named for an online community of Bible-reading women. A pink, giant-print King James Version gift Bible has been a bestseller for years. And Donald Trump earned more than $1.3 million last year for endorsing a patriotic Bible named for country singer Lee Greenwood's song "God Bless the USA."

While publishers can track how many Bibles are sold, they don't have demographic details of the buyers. But Tim Wildsmith, a former college campus minister turned author and Bible YouTuber, wonders if the tumult of the last five years, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the current political polarization, is playing a role. With the world going crazy, he said, folks may be looking for something they can rely on.



Three bibles sit on a couch Monday, Nov. 24, 2025 in Brooklyn, New York. (AP Photo/David Crary)

"Part of me wonders if people are just looking for something to kind of settle themselves — that spiritual looking for peace, whatever you want to call it," he said.

At the Christian Connection bookstore in Sycamore, Illinois, a town west of Chicago, the most popular version of the Bible is the New Living Translation, especially its editions that pair with a new app from Tyndale, the NLT's publisher. That translation is easy to read, and the app, known as Filament, makes it easy for readers to access study materials to help understand the text, said Kelli Malm, who runs the store with her mother.

"People want the readability, especially if they're new Christians, and if they're younger, they can use an app," she said. "It's kind of a no-brainer situation for people — they've got a Bible and carry it around with them, and they don't have to necessarily grab the big study Bible."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENT

Cardinals legend to headline Phoenix Open tee-off luncheon

Charitable gathering at Chase Field precedes longtime golf tournament

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



NFL legend Larry Fitzgerald, left, walks along the course during the third round at the Masters golf tournament on April 12, 2025 in Augusta, Georgia. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

The Thunderbirds, hosts of the WM Phoenix Open, announced that former Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald will be the featured guest for the WM Phoenix Open Tee-Off Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 3, on the diamond at Chase Field in downtown Phoenix.

Tickets are $350 per person or $3,500 for a table of 10 and are available online at wmphoenixopen.com.

"The Tee-Off Luncheon is our annual event that kicks off WM Phoenix Open season, brings together this great community, and allows us to showcase what's new and exciting for the upcoming event," Tournament Chairman Jason Eisenberg shared in a press release. "We're thrilled to welcome one of the Valley's most beloved sports figures to the stage, where he'll reflect on his journey in the NFL, talk about his achievements off the field and share personal stories of his experiences participating in WM Phoenix Open events throughout the years."

A familiar face at the Annexus Pro-Am, Fitzgerald is an Honorary Thunderbird and is widely recognized for his notable accolades that include serving as a 12-time team captain, receiving the 2014 Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award, the 2016 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, and being inducted into the 2024 College Football Hall of Fame.

In 2005, he founded The Larry Fitzgerald Foundation, which creates opportunities for young people in underserved communities to learn and thrive in safe and healthy environments while also providing resources for individuals and families impacted by breast cancer.

The 2026 WM Phoenix Open returns to TPC Scottsdale Feb. 2–8 for its 91st edition.

The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 "active" members and more than 280 "life" members who have helped the tournament eclipse $226 million in charitable giving since its inception in 1932, with the 2025 WM Phoenix Open raising a single-tournament record $18.1 million for charity.

IF YOU GO

What: WM Phoenix Open Tee-Off Luncheon
When: Wednesday, Dec. 3
Where: Chase Field, 400 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix
Tickets: $350 per person or $3,500 for a table of 10, at wmphoenixopen.com

THINGS TO DO

TOUR

Electric Callboy will bring 2026 tour to Phoenix

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

German electronicore band Electric Callboy will bring its world tour to Phoenix next spring.

The Tanzneid World Tour will visit Arizona Financial Theatre in downtown Phoenix on April 19, 2026.

"With Tanzneid, we will bring a brand new live show to fans all around the world," the band shared in a press release.

"This tour is about celebrating the connection we have with our fans across conti-nents and bringing the full Electric Callboy experience to as many places as we can."

Tickets available at electriccallboy.com/#tour.

Electric Callboy are known for their fusion of metalcore and electronic rave culture.



German electronicore band Electric Callboy will hit Phoenix on April 19, 2026. (Photo provided by KF Publicity)

IF YOU GO

Who: Electric Callboy
When: April 19, 2026
Where: Arizona Financial Theatre, 400 W. Washington St., Phoenix
Tickets: electriccallboy.com/#tour

TUESDAY

SHOW
'The Queer Agenda'

Kobalt
3110 N. Central Ave., Suite 175, Phoenix
9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY



THEATER
'A Christmas Carol'

The Phoenix Theatre Company
1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
7 p.m.

THURSDAY

COMEDY
'A Drunk Christmas Carol'

The Rose Theatre in Phoenix
455 N. 3rd St., Suite 1010, Phoenix
7 p.m.

TOUR

Conan Gray bringing world tour to West Valley

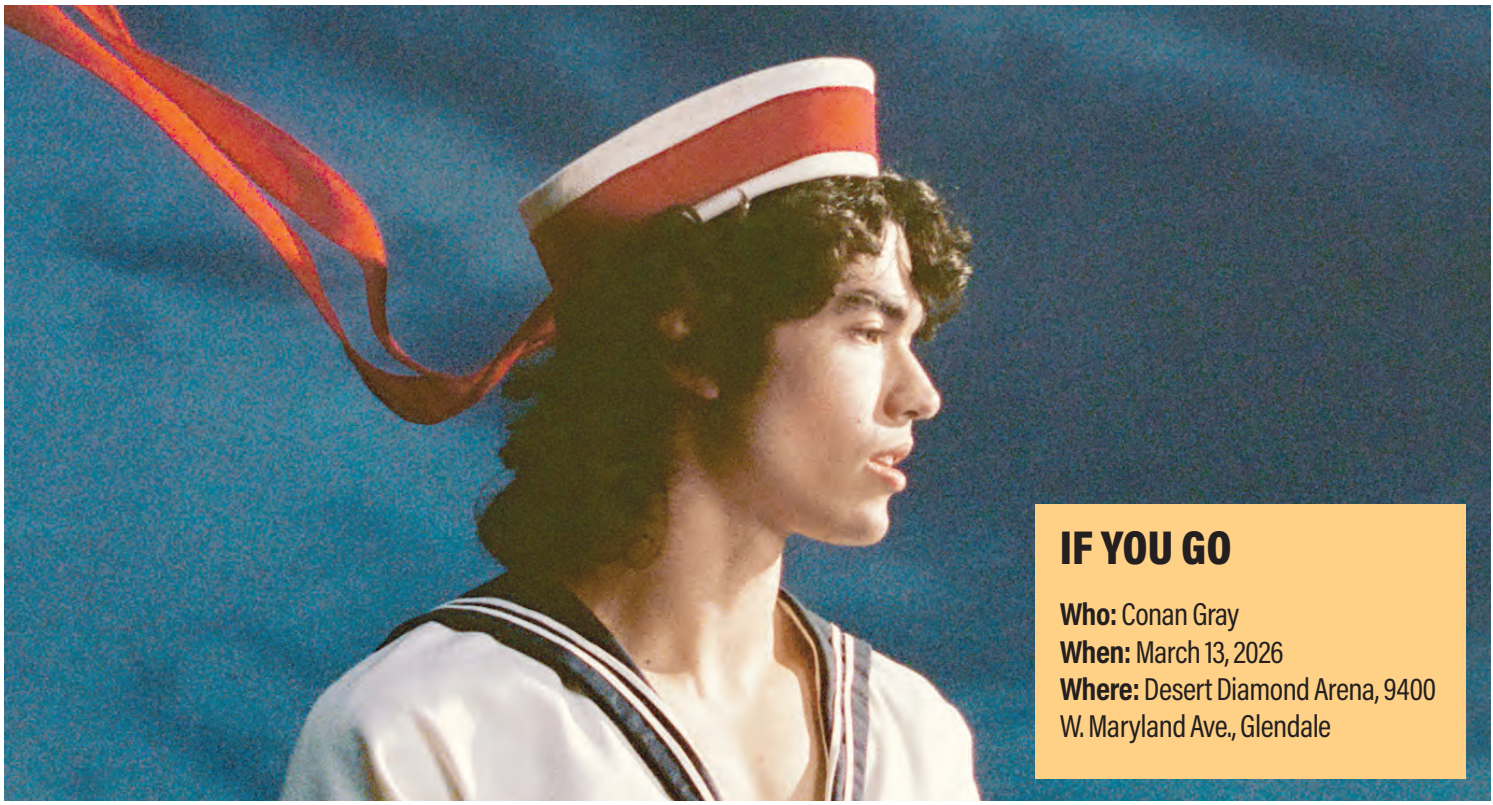
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Multi-platinum singer-songwriter Conan Gray will bring Wishbone World Tour with special guest Esha Tewari to Glendale this spring.

The 42-city global run kicks off in February in Minneapolis and will arrive at Desert Diamond Arena in the West Valley inside the Westgate Entertainment District on March 13, 2026.

The announcement follows Conan's fourth studio album "Wishbone" debuting at No. 1 on Billboard's Album Sales chart and Top 3 on the Billboard 200 — marking the highest chart debut and biggest sales week of his career.

Tickets available at conangray.lnk.to/tour.



Conan Gray will perform in Glendale on March 13, 2026. (Photo provided by KF Publicity)

IF YOU GO

Who: Conan Gray
When: March 13, 2026
Where: Desert Diamond Arena, 9400 W. Maryland Ave., Glendale



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Willowbrook United Methodist Church
https://willowbrookumc.org

HAPPENINGS

Ornament Marketplace

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Nov. 30
Where: Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
About: Decorate your home this holiday season with handmade American Indian ornaments from the Heard Museum Shop's annual Ornament Marketplace. Find unique ornaments in a variety of styles and mediums. Free admission.

'Bowls of Hope'

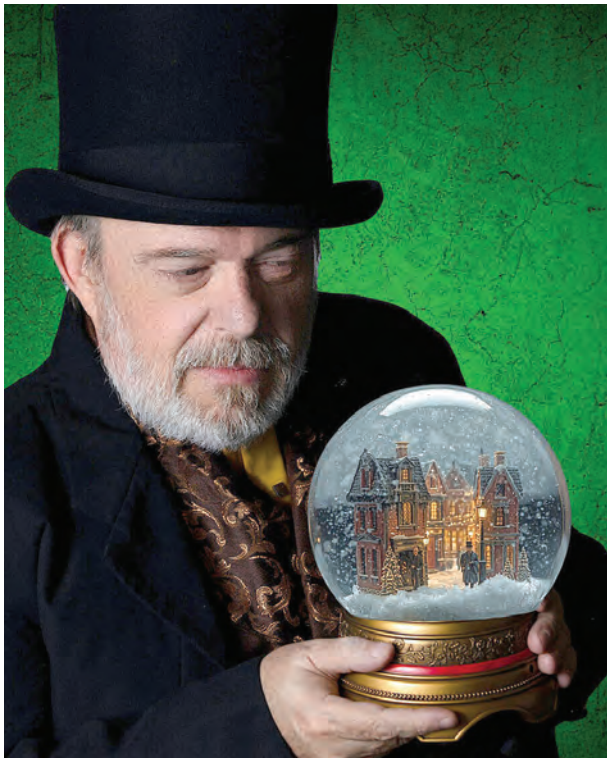
When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29
Where: WHAM Arts Center, 16560 N. Dysart Road, Surprise
About: HAM Art Center presents its 12th Annual Bowls of Hope. More than 500 handcrafted bowls by local artists will be sold to support seven West Valley charities.

WM Phoenix Open Tee-Off Luncheon

When: Wednesday, Dec. 3
Where: Chase Field, 400 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix
About: The Thunderbirds, hosts of the WM Phoenix Open, announced that former Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald will be the featured guest for the WM Phoenix Open Tee-Off Luncheon on the diamond at Chase Field in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are $350 per person or $3,500 for a table of 10, at wmphoenixopen.com.

'Elf The Musical Jr.'

When: Dec. 4-14



Where: Musical Theatre of Anthem, 42201 N. 41st Drive, Suite B100, Anthem
About: Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth.

'A Christmas Carol: The Musical'

When: Dec. 5-21
Where: Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills
About: Book and Lyrics by Peter J. Hill, music by Jay Melberg, and based on "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

'A Christmas Carol'

When: Dec. 5-21
Where: Peoria Center for Performing Arts, 10580 N. 83rd Drive, Peoria
About: The timeless tale of redemption and holiday spirit returns to TheaterWorks with all-new designs, including a brand-new set, new costumes, and new stage magic, to bring Charles Dickens' classic story to life like never before.

Holiday Prelude Luncheon and Fashion Show

When: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5
Where: Camelback Inn, 5402 E. Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale
About: The 38th annual edition features a fashion show, luncheon, shopping boutique, and prize drawing. The Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras and Phoenix Theatre Company Guild come together to create the festive holiday event. Tickets are $110, $150, or $175. Call 480-342-9124.

Holiday Pops Spectacular

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
Where: Symphony Hall, 75 N. 2nd St., Phoenix
About: Celebrate the season of joy featuring carols and hymns from various traditions. Guest conductor Lawrence Loh returns to the Phoenix Symphony, joined by the Phoenix Symphony Chorus and guest artists.

HAPPENINGS

APS Electric Light Parade

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Entries in the 2.3-mile route head south on Central until they reach Camelback Road at which point, they turn east and head up to 7th Street. At 7th Street, entries turn south and continue down 7th Street until they reach Indian School Road which is the end of the route.
About: Coming into its 38th year, the APS Electric Light Parade brings together families, neighborhood groups and businesses to provide a family friendly special event enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of families each year. This year's theme is "Let It Glow!"

Stroll in the Glow

When: 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Avenue of the Fountains, 16872 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills





About: Annual Lighting of the Avenue, Santa's arrival, Balloon Glow at the Fountain, and more.

Fashionetta 2025: Couture Renaissance

When: 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Conference Center, 9495 W. Entertainment Blvd., Glendale
About: The signature fundraiser of the Phoenix AKARAMA Foundation is a revival of fashion as art. See garments that transcend trends and become storytelling tapestries. General admission is $175. Email fashionettaa@phxakarama.org

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

When: 10:55 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Wesley Bolin Plaza Stadium, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix
About: Pay tribute and reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and legacy of those who served.

Santa Paws Holiday Pet Adoption

When: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Where: Sam's Club, 18501 N. 83rd Ave., Glendale
About: Proceeds support various animal rescue and animal welfare organizations.

Step Up to Cancer Walk

When: 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
Where: Cancer Support Community Arizona, 360 East Palm Lane, Phoenix
About: Step Up To Cancer Community Walk of Hope is an inaugural fundraising event that raises funds for the social and emotional support programs they provide to people impacted by cancer.

'Sleigh Bells Swing Holiday Spirit'

When: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8
Where: Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria
About: Swing into the most wonderful time of the year with Sleigh Bells Swing, a dazzling holiday concert that combines the timeless charm of Christmas classics with the vibrant energy of a New Orleans band.

Arizona Costume Institute Holiday Luncheon

When: 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 8
Where: Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix
About: Features co-founders of luxury brand Veronica Beard as keynote speakers. Proceeds of annual fundraiser to benefit the fashion department at Phoenix Art Museum.

HAPPENINGS

'The Nutcracker'

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9
Where: Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St., Phoenix
About: Performed by International Ballet Stars, the performance features a brand-new set, dazzling cast, and more than 200 exclusive costumes created especially for this production.

The Mistletones

When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10
Where: TheaterWorks at Peoria, 10580 N. 83rd Drive, Peoria
About: This a cappella quartet will perform a variety of festive holiday music selections for the Christmas season.

'Claus and Effect 25: A Tropical Holiday'

When: Dec. 11-21
Where: Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix
About: Written and directed by Jean-Paoul Clemente for Order Chaos Theater Company, on the weekend before Christmas Mrs. Claus is ready to spill a few North Pole secrets in this lighthearted holiday romp as Mrs. Claus and her elves trade snowflakes for sunshine in a tropical twist on the season. Playing at the Herberger Theater Center's Kax Stage.

'Million Dollar Quartet Christmas'

When: Dec. 11-21
Where: Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria
About: The holiday sequel to the hit musical "Million Dollar Quartet" seen on the ABT



stage in Season 20. Set on Dec. 4, 1956, at Sun Records in Memphis, it reunites rock-n-roll legends Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins for an electrifying holiday jam session.

3rd Annual Art at Anthem

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12-Sunday, Dec. 14
Where: Outlets North Phoenix, 4250 W. Anthem Way, Phoenix



About: The event will bring the festive spirit to Outlets North Phoenix with a diverse array of juried art, unique local vendors and holiday cheer.

Witchcrafted Yule Market

When: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Drive, Glendale
About: Embrace your inner Witch and shop over 90 vendors showcasing traditional handcrafts, crystals, candles, occult art, oddities, ritual supplies, tarot decks, and small boutique retailers. $5 entry. Visit witchcraftedmarket.com.

Litchfield Park Hometown Christmas Parade

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Litchfield Square Park, 279 N. La Loma Ave.
About: The city of Litchfield Park hosts its annual Christmas in the Park event on the second Saturday in December each year. Now in its 38th year.

Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade

When: 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Where: Historic Downtown Glendale
About: Staging located at 51st Avenue south of Glendale Avenue. The route proceeds west on Glendale to 58th Avenue where it turns south to the de-staging area. All proceeds benefit Hope for Hunger, a Glendale-based food bank that brings help and hope to local families in need.

SPORTS

NCAA FOOTBALL

ASU preps for tonight's Territorial Cup with Big 12 title game hopes

By Colin Hogan
CRONKITE NEWS

TEMPE — It's a rivalry that has led to heartbreak, barnburners and — mostly recently — ugly blowouts. However, in its 99th rendition, the stakes of the Arizona State-Arizona Territorial Cup game are higher than they've been in years.

For the first time since 2014, ASU and Arizona come into the game above the .500 mark and with bowl eligibility. A game that has always held meaning within the state now could also have national implications as ASU clings to its aspirations for a return to the Big 12 Championship game.

For both teams, the game would be circled on the schedule even if only bragging rights were at stake.

"You always want to beat your brother," said ASU head coach Kenny Dillingham said. "When you play your brother, there is nothing more you want to do. If not, you will hear about it for a year."



Arizona State wide receiver Derek Eusebio celebrates his touchdown against West Virginia during the first half of game Saturday, Nov. 15 at Mountain America Stadium in Tempe. (The Associated Press/ Ross D. Franklin)

Arizona State needs a win and some help to get back to Dallas for the championship game, but Dillingham and his team have their full focus on the Wildcats.

"I told the guys after Colorado, it's a one-game season," Dillingham said. "We finished the regular season 8-3, and now we've got a bonus game right here, then whatever is after that."

The ASU coach gave credit to Arizona's core of players, who have fought through the ups and downs of the last three years to have what Dillingham called "an unbelievable season." Arizona won 10 games in 2023, then just four in 2024 before bouncing back this season.

"They're playing as good of football, in our league, as anybody right now," Dillingham said. "And the thing about them is they won 10 games two years ago. Their quarterback is the same quarterback. Their free safety, who's the most valuable

• See **Cup** on page **38**

WNBA

Mercury unveil new logo entering 30th season

By David Brandt
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — One of the WNBA's most recognizable franchises is modernizing its look.

The three-time WNBA champion Mercury — who also made a surprise run to the Finals this season — released their new logos for the upcoming season on Monday, continuing an aggressive financial push by team owner Mat Ishbia.

Team president Vince Kozar said it's the right time to give the organization an update as it enters its 30th season in the league. The Mercury debuted in 1997 as one of the WNBA's original eight teams, winning titles in 2007, 2009 and 2014 with a core that was built around 11-time All-Star Diana Taurasi.

The Mercury will still lean on their original color scheme that's mainly purple and orange, but wanted a bigger variety of logos to expand their ability to do advertising and sell merchandise.

"Being sort of a legacy brand was instructive to the process of us developing a rebrand," Kozar said. "We didn't want a huge departure. We wanted fans to be able to see the old mark in the new marks. We wanted a modernization and evolution — not a wholesale rebrand.

• See **Logo** on page **38**



The Mercury unveiled a new logo on Monday, the first refresh after using the same logo during the franchise's first 29 seasons. (Courtesy Phoenix Mercury)

Cup

• From page **37**

player in their defense, is the same kid. They have the core of that team, so it's not a shock that they're having this amount of success."

Defensively, it starts in the secondary for Arizona. The Wildcats own the best pass defense in the conference and rank sixth nationally. Led by Genesis Smith and Treydan Stukes, Arizona has been locked down against the pass this season.

Fortunately for ASU, Arizona's weakness falls at the feet of a Sun Devils strength. Junior running back Raleek Brown is coming off of a 255-yard game on the ground, an effort that broke ASU's single-game rushing record on the road as ASU mauled Colorado's run defense.

A similar recipe could find success against a middle-of-the-pack Wildcats rush defense.

Arizona will come in with the 74th-ranked rushing defense in the country, allowing just under 150 rush yards per game. A strong running game, led by Brown, could allow ASU to control the game and keep the Wildcats' stout secondary at bay.

However, the leader and engine of the Wildcats is quarterback Noah Fifita, who was the 2023 Pac-12 Offensive Freshman of the Year and has returned to that form this season. The junior gunslinger is completing nearly 65% of his passes, throwing for 2,677 yards and 25 touchdowns.

During that freshman campaign, Fifita lit up the Sun Devil secondary while breaking the Territorial Cup's record for single-game passing yards with 527. Fifita's performance led the Wildcats to a 59-23 win over the Sun Devils, which brought a painful end to Dillingham's first year.

With many Sun Devils from that roster still here today, Dillingham said it will be "really cool" for his seniors to walk off that field tonight knowing that the program has flipped.

"It's really fun to see our guys go out there in their last game, knowing that they took this place when there were 30,000 fans in that stadium to all sellouts their senior year," Dillingham said.

"That's unbelievable. They saw the transition. I think that's something that not everybody can say they were a part of, a complete change of an organization. I think these seniors can say that."

It is a transition that can reach new heights with a win and some help around the league. The Sun Devils have never played in back-to-back conference championship games, but can snap that streak this weekend.

The Sun Devils' most likely route to Dallas is with a win combined with a Texas Tech win, a BYU loss and a Utah loss.

But for Dillingham, it is all about playing what he called "meaningful football" during rivalry week.

Logo

• From page **37**

"Once we were able to settle on that, we were really comfortable moving forward."

The new logos have several subtle nods to the team's history. The primary logo is the Mercury "M" that's positioned at an angle of 19.97 degrees, which references the inaugural season.

Another logo features the popular "Merc" nickname, which has been used by players and fans for years. Kozar credited Ishbia with being willing to open his wallet for a change that comes with plenty of cost.

"Stuff like this — I'm not quite sure fans quite understand the amount of investment it takes to do something like this," Kozar said. "Not only the brand work, the design work and all the effort we're putting into the announcement, but there's a lot of stuff that has to be swapped out.

"The old logo exists in a lot of places. There's a hard cost to doing things like that, but with Mat, that never seems to be a consideration."

The rebrand comes less than two years after the franchise unveiled a $100 million, 58,000-square foot practice facility that's about a block from the team's arena. It has two full-size courts, a weight room and a team meeting room with theater-style seating.



A fan wears a T-shirt featuring the Mercury's new secondary logo during the WNBA Finals in October at Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix. (Courtesy Phoenix Mercury)

Most importantly, it's just for the Mercury, who shared their previous practice facility with the NBA's Phoenix Suns. Ishbia — who has owned both teams since early 2023 — has said he hopes the rest of the league will match his investment in women's basketball.

"I don't want this to be a competitive advantage," Ishbia said back in October during the Finals. "I want everyone else to do the same thing."



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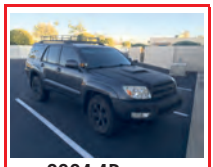
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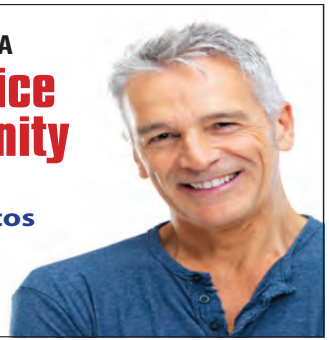
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CAVE CREEK
UTILITY RATE INCREASES

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town of Cave Creek Town Council on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026** at 5:00 p.m. at the Cave Creek Town Hall, 37622 N. Cave Creek Road, Cave Creek, AZ to consider approval of proposed changes to the Town of Cave Creek Water, Town of Cave Creek Wastewater, and Desert Hills Water utility rates pursuant to A.R.S. Section 9-511.01.

The Final Rate Study Report can be found on the Cave Creek Town Website www.cavecreekaz.gov

Questions about the proposed changes can be directed to Cherie White, Finance Director at 480-488-6600 or cwhite@cavecreekaz.gov.

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, Cave Creek/Carefree Independent, December 3, 2025/34248_1

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Attorney Personal Representative:
ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.
Robert F. Jeckel, #003801
17028 North Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, Arizona 85373
(623) 972-1133
E-Mail: legal@jnlegal.com

Personal Representative:
ALMA R. LORIGO
2349 S. 161st Avenue
Goodyear, AZ 85338

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

In the Matter of the Estates of CARLOS LORIGO and CARMEN LORIGO, Deceased.

PB 2025-008941

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

To any and all unknown heirs of the Estate of CARLOS LORIGO, deceased and/or the Estate of CARMEN LORIGO, deceased:

The undersigned filed an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative (Intestacy) in this proceeding and has been appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced Estates. If you feel you have or may have some interest in the estate of either Decedent, you are required to file a notice or claim with the Court within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice.

DATED: 11/20/2025

ALMA R. LORIGO

ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.

By Robert F. Jeckel, Attorney

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/34205

Public Notice

Landlord Lien Sale Notice:

Sale is located at 1221 N. Dysart Rd., Avondale, Az - Space #7.

Date: December 12, 2025 at 12:00 pm
Make: Kirkwood
Year: 1997
Size: 16x64
Vin: 13517483

Publish: Phoenix Independent, December 3, 10, 2025/16095_1

Public Notice

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is soliciting proposals from interested suppliers for Professional Development Training and Course Customization.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be published on November 21, 2025. You may obtain a copy of Solicitation BPM007286 at https://app.az.gov. Proposals are due on December 05, 2025, at 3:00 P.M. MST-AZ Time.

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, 2025/34074

Public Notice

ORDINANCE # 2025-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CODE OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, BY AMENDING CHAPTERS 101, 106, 107, AND 108, AND THE PLANNING & ENGINEERING DESIGN STANDARDS, RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS; INCLUDING SEVERABLITY; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was properly noticed for public hearing and the necessary hearings and opportunity for public input were completed;

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to amend Chapters 101, 106, 107, and 108 of the Surprise Land Development Ordinances, and the Planning & Engineering Design Standards (the "PEDS"), to add and modify standards to facilitate additional home product types, including, but not limited to, townhouses, small lot detached single family homes, detached alley-loaded products, cluster homes, duplexes, and RV garage products; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the proposed text amendments to the Land Development Ordinances and the PEDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Surprise, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. Chapters 101, 106, 107, and 108 of the Surprise Land Development Ordinances, as well as the PEDS, are hereby amended as described on the attached **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference.

Section 2. The recitals above are fully incorporated in this Ordinance by reference.

Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, or codes in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance or Code adopted by this Ordinance are repealed upon the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not be read to affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 4. This Ordinance will become effective at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of November, 2025.

_____
Kevin D. Sartor, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Kristi Passarelli, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Jeffrey Murray, City Attorney

EXHIBITS ON FILE
CONTACT THE SURPRISE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SURPRISE, AZ. 85374 - 623-222-1200

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2025/33637

Public Notice

ORDINANCE # 2025-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CODE OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 101, ARTICLE II, SECTION 101- 2.2; CHAPTER 102, ARTICLE II, SECTION 102-2.1; CHAPTER 102, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 102-5.5 AND 102-5.6; CHAPTER 108, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 108-1.1, 108-1.2, 108-1.4, AND 108-1.5; CHAPTER 108, ARTICLE II, SECTION 108-2.1; CHAPTER 108, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 108-3.2, 108-3.2.1, AND 108-3.3 REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF VARIOUS ENTITLEMENTS; INCORPORATING THE RECITALS BY REFERENCE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was properly noticed for public hearing, and the necessary hearings and opportunity for public input were completed;

WHEREAS, the Arizona Legislature adopted HB 2447, codified as A.R.S. § 9- 500.49, which mandates cities shall authorize administrative approval of various entitlements, including site plans, preliminary plats, final plats, and plat amendments;

WHEREAS, City staff has identified several provisions in the Surprise Municipal Code that require revision to conform with HB 2447; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is being adopted by the City Council to comply with the new mandates under HB 2447 and to correct scrivener's errors and conflicting references.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Surprise, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 101, Article II, Section 101-2.2; Chapter 102, Article II, Section 102-2.1; Chapter 102, Article V, Sections 102-5.5 and 102-5.6; Chapter 108, Article I, Sections 108-1.1, 108-1.2, 108-1.4, and 108-1.5; Chapter 108, Article II, Section 108-2.1; and Chapter 108, Article III, Sections 108-3.2, 108-3.2.1, and 108-3.3 of the Surprise Municipal Code are hereby amended as described on the attached Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The recitals above are fully incorporated in this Ordinance by reference.

Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, or codes in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance or Code adopted herein by reference are repealed.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or any of these amendments to the Code adopted herein is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not be read to affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance will become effective at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of November, 2025.

_____
Kevin D. Sartor, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Kristi Passarelli, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Jeffrey Murray, City Attorney

EXHIBITS ON FILE
CONTACT THE SURPRISE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SURPRISE, AZ. 85374 - 623-222-1200

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2025/33638

Public Notice

ORDINANCE # 2025-18

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CODE OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, BY ADDING CHAPTER 112, ARTICLES I THROUGH III, SECTIONS 112-1.1 THROUGH 112-3.1, RELATING TO MIDDLE HOUSING; INCORPORATING THE RECITALS BY REFERENCE; ESTABLISHING A PURPOSE; SETTING FORTH DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTAIN MIDDLE HOUSING AS A PERMITTED USE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, § 9-462.13(A) of the Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) requires the governing body of a city or town with a population of 75,000 or more to adopt regulations no later than January 1, 2026, which would allow duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, and townhomes as a "permitted use" on: (i) lots zoned for single-family residential use within one mile of the municipality's central business district; and (ii) at least twenty percent of any new residential development of more than ten contiguous acres;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(H)(8) defines "permitted use" as "the ability for a development to be approved without requiring a public hearing, variance, conditional use permit, special permit or special exception, other than a discretionary zoning action to determination that a site plan conforms with applicable zoning regulations";

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(E) provides that a failure to adopt regulations by January 1, 2026, would result in middle housing being allowed on all lots zoned for single- family residential use without any limitations;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(H)(7) defines "middle housing" as buildings that are compatible in scale, form and character with single-family houses and that contain two or more attached, detached, stacked or clustered homes, including duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes and townhouses;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(1) prohibits the City of Surprise from discouraging the development of middle housing through requirements or actions that individually or cumulatively make impracticable the permitting, siting, or construction of middle housing;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(2) prohibits the City of Surprise from restricting middle housing to less than two floors;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(3) prohibits the City of Surprise from restricting middle housing to a floor area ratio of less than fifty percent;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(4) prohibits the City of Surprise from setting restrictions, permitting or review processes for middle housing that are more restrictive than those for single-family dwellings within the same zone;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(5) prohibits the City of Surprise from requiring owner occupancy of a middle housing structure on the lot;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(6) prohibits the City of Surprise from requiring a middle housing structure to comply with a commercial building code or to contain a fire sprinkler;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13(B)(7) prohibits the City of Surprise from requiring more than one off-street parking space per unit of the middle housing;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13 includes and authorizes various exceptions and limitations that the City of Surprise is implementing with this Ordinance;

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 9-462.13 does not change or otherwise impair the terms of any development agreement that exists on September 14, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Surprise City Council has considered the probable impact of this ordinance on the cost to construct housing for sale or rent;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 2, 2025, by the Planning and Zoning Commission as required by the Surprise Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was properly noticed for public hearing, and the necessary hearings and opportunity for public input were completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Surprise, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 112, Articles I through III, Sections 112-1.1 through 112-3.1 are hereby added as described on the attached Exhibit A, and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The above recitals are fully incorporated in this Ordinance by reference.

Section 3. This Ordinance does not affect the rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 4. All ordinances, resolutions, or codes in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance or Code adopted herein by reference are repealed.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or any of these amendments to the Code adopted herein is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not be read to affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of November, 2025.

_____
Kevin D. Sartor, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Kristi Passarelli, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Jeffrey Murray, City Attorney

EXHIBITS ON FILE
CONTACT THE SURPRISE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SURPRISE, AZ. 85374 - 623-222-1200

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2025/33635

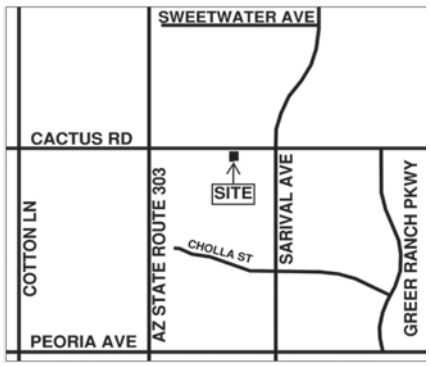
Public Notice

CITY OF SURPRISE PUBLIC NOTICE

Take notice that at the date, time, and place listed below, the City of Surprise Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the request of Stephanie Watney with Withey Morris Baugh on behalf of Barclay Holdings CXIX LLC relating to the proposed Conditional Use Permit with Site Plan for a McDonald's drive through restaurant located west of the southwest corner of Cactus Road and Sarival Avenue. Surprise Planning Case FS25-0515.

Please contact Alex Ferruccio 623-222-3164 or at Alex.Ferruccio@surpriseaz.gov for more information regarding this request.

PROJECT LOCATION



MEETING DETAILS

Planning and Zoning Commission
DATE: Thursday, December 18, 2025
TIME: 6:00 PM
Surprise City Hall
LOCATION: 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ, 85374

The City of Surprise streams and broadcasts its City Council meetings. Watch live on Cox channel 11, www.surpriseaz.gov/surprisetv, or the Surprise City Gov Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cityofsurprise.

At this meeting, any member of the public may appear and be heard relative to this request or may submit written comments at any time prior to the Public Hearing. To submit email comments, including Call to the Public for non-agenda items for Planning & Zoning Commission meetings, please email pandzcomments@surpriseaz.gov prior to the start of the meeting. Please check the agenda for exact start times. Only comments received prior to the start of the meeting will be considered and included in the record. Any interested party may obtain an agenda 24 hours prior to the Public Hearing at the Surprise City Hall. Please note that this item will be placed on the next available agenda should the meeting be canceled or quorum be lost.

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, December 3, 2025/33993

Public Notice

ORDINANCE # 2025-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE CODE OF SURPRISE, ARIZONA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 34, ARTICLE V, SECTION 34- 105(D) AND CHAPTER 104, ARTICLE I, SECTION 104-1.7(C) RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION START TIMES; INCLUDING THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was properly noticed for public hearing, and the necessary hearings and opportunity for public input were completed;

WHEREAS, the Arizona Legislature adopted S.B. 1182, codified as A.R.S. § 9-500.52, which mandates that cities and towns may not enact or enforce any noise ordinance, rule, or regulation which prohibits any general construction activities between May 1 and October 15 of each year between the hours of 5:00AM and 7:00PM each business day and between the hours of 7:00AM and 7:00PM on Saturday;

WHEREAS, S.B. 1182 also mandates cities and town must allow the pouring of concrete at least one hour before general construction activities are regularly scheduled to begin; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is being adopted by the City Council to comply with the new mandates under S.B. 1182.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Surprise, Arizona, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 34, Article V, Sections 34-105(d) and Chapter 104, Article I, Section 104-1.7(C) of the Surprise Municipal Code are hereby amended as described on the attached Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The recitals above are fully incorporated in this Ordinance by reference.

Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, or codes in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance or Code adopted herein by reference are repealed.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or any of these amendments to the Code adopted herein is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not be read to affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 5. This Ordinance will become effective at the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of November, 2025.

_____
Kevin D. Sartor, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Kristi Passarelli, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Jeffrey Murray, City Attorney

EXHIBITS ON FILE
CONTACT THE SURPRISE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
16000 N. CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SURPRISE, AZ. 85374 - 623-222-1200

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 21, 28, December 5, 12, 2025/33634

Check Us Out ONLINE!
Independent Newsmedia
iniusa.org/classifieds

Public Notice

COPY

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

**** FILED ****
11/19/2025
Clerk of the Court

Issued and Filed: 11/19/2025

PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

In the Matter of

SERENITY GONZALEZ

Case No. PB2025-009084

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING REGARDING:
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR FOR MINOR

WARNING

This is a legal notice; your rights may be affected. **Éste es un aviso legal. Sus derechos podrían ser afectados.**

You are not required to attend this hearing except as provided in A.R.S. § 14-5401(D). However, **if you oppose any of the relief requested in the petition that that accompanies this notice, you must file with the court a written response at least 7 calendar days before the hearing date OR you or your attorney must attend the hearing by following the instructions provided in this notice.**

Any written response must comply with Rule 15(e) of the Arizona Rules of Probate Procedure. If you do not file a timely response or attend the hearing:

(1) the court may grant the relief requested in the petition unless otherwise prohibited by law and without further proceedings, and

(2) you will not receive additional notices of court proceedings relating to the petition unless you file a Demand for Notice pursuant to Title 14, Arizona Revised Statutes.

1. Notice is given that VERONICA MOLINA has filed the following:

   - PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR FOR MINOR

2. COURT HEARING. An initial hearing has been scheduled to consider the Petition as follows:

   DATE and TIME: **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 10:00 AM**
   JUDICIAL OFFICER: **Commissioner Elizabeth Bingert**
   PLACE: **125 W. WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85003 - COURTROOM 301**
   TELEPHONE NO: **(602) 372-0270**

   Pursuant to A.R.S. § 14-1306(A), if duly demanded, a party is entitled to trial by jury in any proceeding in which any controverted question of fact arises as to which any party has a constitutional right to trial by jury.

   Any interested person, including the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney, may attend the Initial Hearing virtually unless the Court has specifically ordered that person to attend the hearing in person. To attend the hearing virtually, use Court Connect as described in Section 3 below. If the Court has specifically ordered you to attend the Initial Hearing in person, you must do so by appearing at the location stated above at the time of the Initial Hearing.

3. COURT CONNECT / MICROSOFT TEAMS

   If you have a camera-enabled computer, smartphone, or tablet device, you should go to **tinyurl.com/jbazmc-pbc02** a few minutes before the Initial Hearing is scheduled to begin. For the best experience, download and install the Microsoft Teams application on a camera-enabled computer, smartphone, or tablet device using either of the following methods prior to the time set for the Initial Hearing:

   - Go to the following link: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app
   - Or scan the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet:

   If you have a camera-enabled device, but do not want to install the Microsoft Teams application, you may use a web browser simply by typing **tinyurl.com/jbazmc-pbc02** into your browser a few minutes before the Initial Hearing is scheduled to begin. Please note, however, that you will not have access to all the features if you use a web browser rather than the Microsoft Teams application.

   If you do not have a camera-enabled device, you can still attend the Initial Hearing by phone by calling:

   - Courtroom Phone Number: 1-917-781-4590
   - Courtroom Conference ID#: 454 344 082#

   For more information about Court Connect, please see https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/court-connect

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/33989

Public Notice

MOORE LAW PARTNERS, PLLC
Teague R. Lashnits SBN: 023707
9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201
Sun City, Arizona 85351
Telephone (623) 977-7251
Email:tanya@moorelawpartners.com
Attorneys for Applicant

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
FILED
J. ORTIZ. DEP
25 OCT 31 AM 10: 13

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL A. WITTMANN,

Deceased.

Case No.: PB2025-008443

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed as personal representative for this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned personal representative at the Moore Law Partners, PLLC, 9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Dated this 22 day of October, 2025.

PEGGY SUE KISS,
Personal Representative

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 14, 21, 28, 2025/33453

Public Notice

THE PIPHO FAMILY TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the Successor Trustee of the above-mentioned Trust.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 14-6103, all persons having claims against the trust estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or within (60) days after the mailing or other delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or the claim will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Trustee in care of Moore Law Partners, PLLC, 9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2025.

Donald Paul Pipho, II, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 14, 21, 28, 2025/33548

Public Notice

MOORE LAW PARTNERS, PLLC
Teague R. Lashnits SBN: 023707
9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201
Sun City, Arizona 85351
Telephone (623) 977-7251
Email: tanya@moorelawpartners.com
Attorney for Applicant

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
FILED
P. LEIN. DEP
25 OCT 22 AM 11: 19

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN THE MATTER OF THE INTESTACY PROCEEDING OF JOYCE M. AGEE,

Decedent.

Case No.: PB2025-008401

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed as Personal Representative for this intestacy proceeding. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at the Moore Marsh Law, 9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Dated this 2 day of October, 2025.

DENNIS MABERRY
Personal Representative

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 14, 21, 28, 2025/33450

Public Notice

In the Matter of

THE KELLNER REVOCABLE TRUST, u/t/a dated April 30, 2002, as restated April 20, 2017 - LOUIS WAYNE KELLNER, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the Trustee of the above-mentioned Trust. All persons having claims against the Decedents and/or the Trust Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Trustee at the offices of ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C., 17028 North Boswell Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona 85373, Attorneys for the Trust.

DATED: October 31, 2025.

THE KELLNER REVOCABLE TRUST, u/t/a dated April 30, 2002, as restated April 20, 2017

By: Stephanie Marie Kellner
Stephanie Marie Kellner
Trustee

Robert F. Jeckel
ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.
17028 North Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 972-1133

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 21, 28, December 5, 2025/33836

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE YOUNGTOWN MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 8 HEALTH AND SAFETY, CHAPTER 8.16 NOISE, SECTION 8.16.030 – ENUMERATION OF LOUD, DISTURBING AND UNNECESSARY NOISES—ENUMERATIONS NOT EXCLUSIVE, RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE; AND CHAPTER 8.20, ABANDONED VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, SECTION 8.20.050 FRONT YARD PARKING, RELATED TO ALLOWED PARKING AREAS; AND TITLE 9 PUBLIC PEACE, MORALS AND WELFARE, CHAPTER 9.12 CURFEW, BY REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 9.12.010 MINORS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES.

WHEREAS, the Arizona State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1182, amending A.R.S. § 9-500.52, to prohibit municipalities from restricting general construction activities between May 1 and October 15 from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on business days and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, when performed under a valid building permit; and

WHEREAS, the amended statute further requires municipalities to allow concrete pouring at least one hour prior to the start of general construction hours; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Youngtown seeks to amend its municipal code to ensure compliance with state law and to support the needs of the construction industry during Arizona's hot summer months; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the unique characteristics of its residential neighborhoods, including smaller lot sizes and family households, and desires to update its regulations on paved parking areas to better reflect community needs and allow for decorative pavers as an acceptable paving material; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Youngtown contracts with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) for law enforcement services, and MCSO officers routinely enforce the Maricopa County curfew ordinance for minors; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it in the public interest to repeal and replace the Town's curfew ordinance to align with the County's curfew provisions, thereby promoting consistency and effective enforcement;

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town and of the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens to enact reasonable regulations; and

WHEREAS, that certain document entitled "Town of Youngtown Code Update, October 2, 2025" one paper copy and one electronic copy of which are on file with the Town Clerk, is hereby declared a public record and said copies are ordered to remain on file with the Clerk.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Youngtown, Arizona, as follows:

Section I. In General.

The Code of Youngtown, Arizona, is amended, to read as set forth in "Town of Youngtown Code Update, October 2, 2025" which is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section II. Providing for Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance or any part of the Code adopted herein by reference are hereby repealed.

Section III. Providing for Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or any part of the Code adopted herein by reference is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

Section IV. Providing for Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions Title 8 – Health and Safety, Chapter 8.16 Noise, Sections 8.16.030 – Enumeration of loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises—Enumeration not exclusive and Section 8.20.050 – Front Yard Parking shall be deemed responsible for a civil infraction, punishable by a fine not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each violation. Each day that a violation continues shall be a separate offense punishable as hereinabove described.

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects, or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of Title 9 – Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Chapter 9.12 – Curfew, Section 9.12.010 – Minors, shall be deemed, upon conviction thereof, guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Each day that such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Town of Youngtown, Arizona, this 2nd day of October, 2025.

Michael LeVault, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nicole Smart, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Trish Stuhan, Town Attorney

Exhibit A is on file at, and may be obtained from the Town of Youngtown Clerk's Office at: 12030 N. Clubhouse Square Youngtown, AZ 85363, (623) 933-8286

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2025/33345

Public Notice

NOTICE AND CALL FOR BIDS
TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN, ARIZONA

Project Name:	Town of Youngtown Sidewalk Improvements Project – Phase IV
Project Number:	
Bid Opening Date:	**December 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. MST**
Location of Bid Opening:	Town Clerk's Office
YOUNGTOWN Staff Contact:	Nicole Smart
Bid Documents available at:	Town Clerk's Office 12030 North Clubhouse Square Youngtown, AZ 85363

Please call, fax, or e-mail your request for a set of Bid Documents to the Town Clerk. Sets of Bid Documents are prepared for each request the Town Clerk receives. A hard copy is available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office.

Date and Location for Submittal of Bids: Sealed bids will be received at the Town Clerk's Office, 12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, Arizona 85363 **by 10:00 a.m. MST, December 9, 2025, for furnishing all necessary labor, equipment, materials,** and performing all work for the Project. Any bid received after the time specified will be returned unopened. It is the bidder's responsibility to assure proposals are received at the above location on or before the specified time. The sealed envelope must be clearly marked with the bidder's name, project name, project number and contract number.

Bid Documents: Those interested in having individual sets of the Contract Documents may obtain copies from the Town Clerk upon payment of $50.00 per set, which cost is not refundable regardless of whether the Contract Documents are returned. This cost does not include shipping. If bidder requests Contract Documents to be delivered, bidder's shipping company and account number must be included with the request. Contract Documents will be shipped only if bidder assumes responsibility for all related shipping charges. YOUNGTOWN is not responsible for damaged or missing Contract Documents shipped. Copies of the Contract Documents, including plans and specifications, are available for viewing and inspection at the office of Town of Youngtown Town Clerk's Office, 12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, Arizona 85363.

Pre-Bid Conference: A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** MST, at the Town of Youngtown, 12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, Arizona 85363. It is highly recommended that all prospective bidders attend, as bidder responsibility issues will be discussed, along with Project requirements.

Project Description: The Youngtown Sidewalk Improvements Project – Phase IV construction work, in general, consists of providing a safe pedestrian route compliant with current Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the public right-of-way ("PROWAG") requirements. The Project consists, in total, of approximately 9,800 linear feet of ADA compliant sidewalk in the area bounded by West Florida Avenue between North 111th Avenue to 113th Avenue; West Duluth Avenue, West Elk Avenue, West Montana Avenue between North 111th Avenue to North 114th Avenue; West Pennsylvania Avenue between North 111th Avenue to West Peoria Avenue; and North 115th Avenue between West Montana Avenue to West Peoria Avenue. Work includes installation of sidewalk, curb ramps, reconstruction of non-compliant driveways, and ramps in the area, as well as landscape re-establishment and the removal/relocation of existing features, such as driveways, signs, mailboxes, fire hydrants, and other features that are required to complete the work, and other incidental work.

The Engineer's estimate is $1,250,000.00.

Bid Security: Each bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents. Any bid which does not conform in all material respects to the Contract Documents will be considered non-responsive. Each bid shall be submitted on the bid form(s) included in the Contract Documents; shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond for ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, made payable to the order of the Town of Youngtown and shall be included in the bid as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a contract to perform the work in accordance with the Contract Documents. The bid bond shall be executed pursuant to Section 1.4.1 of the Contract Documents, and solely by a surety company or companies holding a certificate of authority to transact surety business in the State of Arizona issued by the Director of the Department of Insurance pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 2, Article 1.

All bid securities will be returned to the bidders whose bids are not accepted, except for the three lowest bidders. The bid security of the three lowest bidder(s) will be returned immediately after the fully completed Contract Documents have been executed. The difference between the amount specified in the bid and such larger amount for which YOUNGTOWN may in good faith contract with another party to perform the work covered by the bid, not to exceed the amount of the bond penalty, shall be declared forfeited as liquidated damages if the successful bidder refuses to enter into the contract and provide the bonds and certificates of insurance after being requested so to do by YOUNGTOWN.

Bid Opening: Bids will be opened in the Conference Room at the office of the Town Clerk, 12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, Arizona 85363, and the proposed bid price will be publicly read aloud immediately after the time for receiving bids has expired as set forth above. YOUNGTOWN reserves the right to postpone the bid opening date at any time prior to bid opening.

A Non-Collusion Affidavit executed by bidder shall be submitted with the bid.

Right to Reject Bids: YOUNGTOWN reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality in a bid or to withhold the award for any reason YOUNGTOWN determines.

Equal Opportunity: YOUNGTOWN is an equal opportunity employer. Minority and women's business enterprises are encouraged to submit bids on this Project.

TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN, ARIZONA

Nicole Smart, Town Clerk — Date 11/12/2025

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2025/33570

Public Notice

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC
Wayne P. Marsh, State Bar No. 003814
17028 N. Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 933-7427
Email: wayne@wmarshlaw.com
Attorney for Personal Representative

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of:
JOHN S. ADAMS,
Deceased.

NO. PB2025-008628
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **BRYAN M. RENCH** has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to the Personal Representative at c/o: Wayne P. Marsh, PLC, 17028 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85373.

DATED this 12th day of November, 2025.

Wayne P. Marsh
Attorney for Personal Representative

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC

By: Wayne P. Marsh
Wayne P. Marsh

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/38980

Public Notice

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC
Wayne P. Marsh, State Bar No. 003814
17028 N. Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 933-7427
Email: wayne@wmarshlaw.com
Attorney for Personal Representative

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of:
MARGARET J. MAUERMAN,
Deceased.

NO. PB2025-008598
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **CALVIN W. GOINGS** has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to the Personal Representative at c/o: Wayne P. Marsh, PLC, 17028 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85373.

DATED this 12 day of November, 2025.

Wayne P. Marsh
Attorney for Personal Representative

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC

By: Wayne P. Marsh
Wayne P. Marsh

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 21, 28, December 5, 2025/33832

Public Notice

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC
Wayne P. Marsh, State Bar No. 003814
17028 N. Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 933-7427
Email: wayne@wmarshlaw.com
Attorney for Personal Representative

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of:
DORIS A. CAFFREY,
Deceased.

NO. PB2025-008400
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **PATRICK R. CAFFREY** has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to the Personal Representative at c/o: Wayne P. Marsh, PLC, 17028 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85373.

DATED this 10 day of Novemb, 2025.

Wayne P. Marsh
Attorney for Personal Representative

WAYNE P. MARSH, PLC

By: Wayne P. Marsh
Wayne P. Marsh

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 14, 21, 28, 2029/33459

Public Notice

Attorney for Personal Representative:
ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.
Robert F. Jeckel, No. 003801
17028 North Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 972-1133
Email: legal@jnlegal.com

Personal Representative:
BETH ANN HYLAND BOOTH
3692 North Dixon Avenue
Meridian, ID 83646

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

In the Matter of the Estate of
MARJORIE LOUISE HYLAND,
Deceased.

NO. PB 2025-007835
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at the law offices of ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C., 17028 North Boswell Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona 85373, attorneys for the Estate.

DATED: ~~September~~ November 24, 2025.

BETH ANN HYLAND BOOTH
Personal Representative

ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.

By: Robert F. Jeckel
Attorney for Personal Representative

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/34183

Public Notice

Attorney for Personal Representative:
ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.
Robert F. Jeckel, #003801
17028 North Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 972-1133
e-mail address legal@jnlegal.com

Personal Representative:
KATHLEEN M. REESE
8324 Ramsgate Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

In the Matter of the Estate of PAULA J. REYNOLDS, Deceased.) PB 2025-008830 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative at the Office of ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C., 17028 North Boswell Blvd., Sun City, Arizona 85373, Attorneys for the Estate.

DATED: 11/24/2025

KATHLEEN M. REESE
Personal Representative

ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.

Robert F. Jeckel, Attorney
for Personal Representative

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/34184

Public Notice

THE ARDITH C. DRESSLER TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the Successor Trustee of the above-mentioned Trust.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 14-6103, all persons having claims against the trust estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or within (60) days after the mailing or other delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or the claim will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Trustee in care of Moore Law Partners, PLLC, 9949 West Bell Road, Suite 201, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2025.

Tanya S. Dressler, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, December 5, 12, 2025/34028

Public Notice

BID SOLICITATION NOTICE -INVITATION FOR BIDS
Lump Sum – Fixed Price
Sealed Bids

Bidder Qualification: MK Marisol, LLC, ("Owner") employs an Arizona ROC General Contractor licensed with documented experience and success on similar projects.

Project Location: North of the intersection of West Dynamite Blvd and 175th Lane, Surprise, AZ. Well Site APN Number is 503-51-186B.

Project Name: MARISOL WELL SITE & RAW WATER FOR NJWC/MARISOL.

Project Description: Project construction scope includes work for both the Marisol Well Site & Raw Water for NJWC/Marisol plan sets. See below for project descriptions.

- MARISOL WELL SITE: Construction of a raw water production well site in Surprise, AZ. Key site features include a proposed submersible well pump, yard piping and appurtenances, centrifugal sand separator, emergency generator, electrical equipment, retention basin, drive aisle and an 8' perimeter wall.

- RAW WATER FOR NJWC/MARISOL: Construction of over 9,000 LF of a 16-inch raw water transmission main from the Marisol Well Site to the Desert Oasis Water Treatment facility in Surprise, AZ.

Bid Documentation: The Scope of Work and other contract documents are available via email along with plans, specifications, and the complete project information. Send requests for information to bids@cvlci.com & kgilleland@tls.land.

Bid Requirements: All bids must include Bid Bond, Business License, and References. Bids must be good for 30 days. Bond-Rating to be A- or better. Performance and Payment Bonds due by successful bidder within 5 days of contract being awarded. Bidder must self-perform well equipping and transmission main construction. Contractor must disclose the following performance metrics: EMR (Experience Modification Rate) and TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate).

The Contractor's EMR for the past three (3) years shall not exceed 1.0. If greater than 1.0, the Contractor must submit a written explanation and evidence of an implemented safety improvement program.

Contractor's TRIR for each of the past three (3) years shall not exceed the BLS industry average for the relevant NAICS classification.

Insurance Requirements: Commercial General Liability coverage; minimum coverage of $2,000,000 per occurrence, $2,000,000 aggregate.

Bid Due Date: Sealed Bids must be delivered on or before **DECEMBER 18, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.** to Engineer's office address at Coe & Van Loo, 4550 N 12th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014 ATTN: Nicole Calabrese.

Public Bid Opening: DECEMBER 18, 2025 AT 10:05 A.M. at Engineer's address above OR online using the Microsoft Teams Meeting Link: **Join the meeting now**

Meeting ID: 243 705 582 756
Passcode: Ba27qL3f

Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to withhold the award for any reason Owner determines.

https://projects.constructconnect.com/details/7302055-marisol-well-site-raw-water-for-njwc-marisol&find_loc=arizona-85375

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 28, 2025/34206

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$500 ..... GM Military*
$500 ..... GM CC*
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$4,750 ..... Liberty Discount

$22,315+ Fees

Or Lease For $3,499 Down
$269 / 36
Per Month Months
+Tax^10K Miles Per Year O.A.C.



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$8,250 OFF!



2025 BUICK ENVISION

$37,895 ..... MSRP #250651
$500 ..... GM Military*
$250 ..... Military appreciation month*
$500 ..... GM CC*
$1,000 ..... Conquest
$5,500 ..... Liberty Discount

$30,145+ Fees

Or Lease For $3,999 Down
$299 / 36
Per Month Months
+Tax^ 10K Miles Per Year O.A.C.

2025 BUICK ENCLAVE

$49,430 ..... MSRP #250176
$500 ..... GM Military*
$250 ..... Military appreciation month*
$500 ..... GM CC*
$1,000 ..... GMF Bonus Cash
$6,000 ..... Liberty Discount

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+Tax^10K Miles Per Year O.A.C.

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2022 BUICK ENCORE GX **27K MILES** $23,495 #P21142	2021 SUBARU CROSSTREK **38K MILES** $25,995 #P21152
2025 GMC YUKON DENALI XL **LOW MILES** CALL FOR PRICE #P21161	2023 TOYOTA TACOMA 4WD **LOW MILES** $39,995 #P21087
2017 BUICK ENVISION **LOW MILES** $17,995 #250558AA	2021 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER **34K MILES** $37,995 #250231AA
2024 BUICK ENVISTA **3K MILES** $25,995 #250231A	**UNDER $13K CARS!!**
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