SCOTTSDALE INDEPENDENT
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Volume 38 Issue 21

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NOVEMBER 4, 2026
Scottsdale North's Nonpartisan Newspaper
FREE

# Some on city council believe e-bike problems getting better

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

E-bikes, which can go as fast as 40 mph., are zipping around Scottsdale creating more havoc than ever these days ... or are they?

No one can really offer any hard evidence either way.

The Scottsdale Police Department does not track calls for service or citations issued related to e-bikes, according to a response to a public records request.

That means no one really knows for sure if e-bikes are causing more or less trouble than before.

The council voted 7-0 to approve a consent agenda on July 1, 2025,

• See **E-Bikes** Page **16**

# Heart of Infinity gives shelter dogs a second chance

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A local rescue is helping dogs at risk of euthanasia in Maricopa County shelters find foster homes and permanent families, giving them a chance to adjust outside the shelter environment.

Krizia Ayoub founded Heart of Infinity to save dogs that could be great pets if given the chance.

"That was the goal when I started the rescue, just to focus on dogs that are on the euthanasia list," Ayoub said. "And in the last two and a half years, our focus has shifted to saving dogs that are marked as fear dogs. So, dogs that are fearful in that shelter environment and are given a deadline for that."

Ayoub said these dogs often behave differently once they have time to settle into a home.

"When we get them out of there and put them in foster homes, they actually do really, really well, and they end up being some of the sweetest dogs," she said.

Since starting the rescue, Heart

• See **Rescue** Page **18**



Francesca and Krizia Ayoub hold rescue dogs at an adoption event at Electric Pickle on Sept. 15, 2025, in Tempe. (Submitted photo/Krizia Ayoub)

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# TACKLING WATER ISSUES

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# City council spars over water security

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Whether Scottsdale has enough water to sustain itself into the future seems to depend on who you ask.

City Councilwomen Solange Whitehead and Jan Dubauskas had two vastly different take aways from an hour long presentation by the city's water department on water security during the council's Oct. 20 meeting.

Scottsdale Water Interim Senior Director Thyra Ryden-Diaz started out by pointing out that Scottsdale has a legal right to 141,341.74 acre feet annually but only used 90,800 acre feet in 2025.

An acre foot is enough to cover one acre with water to a depth of one foot, or approximately 326,000 gallons.

Of the water used by the city last year, 69% came from the Central Arizona Project, which is fed by the Colorado River, 14% came from the Salt River Project, 9% was reclaimed water and 8% was groundwater, she said.

After imminent federal regulations take effect, Scottsdale could be looking at a 17% reduction in its 81,271 acre feet it gets from CAP, Ryden-Diaz said, but also that would not be enough of a reduction to affect Scottsdale's current water consumption.

She then ran through the five strategic initiatives the city is currently acting on to address water cuts. Finally she identified a range of projects costing between $6 million and $261 million to implement those initiatives.



City Councilwomen Solange Whitehead and Jan Dubauskas argued back and forth on how to meet Scottsdale's future water needs. (Submitted photo/Central Arizona Project)

Whitehead, though, ripped into the presentation.

She said the city's water situation is much more tenuous than the presentation depicted.

"We have a serious water problem in Arizona, in the west and in Scottsdale," she said, but added, "but really, there are no technological barriers for solving these problems."

Unfortunately, she said, the current council has gone in the wrong direction during the last two years, when it comes to water.

"Our water usage is up, and that's based on the water usage data we're required to give to the Arizona Department of Water Resources and ... our financial reserves (for water projects) are down ... this council inherited $222 million in fund balances. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll be down to $80 million."

And while Ryden-Diaz reported that the water department is currently down to less than a 5% employee vacancy rate, Whitehead said the department has lost "a record level of technical and policy staff" within the last year.

Among other things, Whitehead also said the amount of water Scottsdale gets from CAP is closer to 71% and said she can't support City Manager Greg Caton's plan to treat Scottsdale's effluent to APRW levels in order to put it into the CAP canal in exchange for other water.

CAP has already said it would not allow such a plan, but Whitehead gave three reasons why it's a bad idea besides that.

First, it would mean Scottsdale taxpayers would have to pay twice for treated water — once to treat effluent to APRW standards and then treat CAP water for the city to use. Second, even if the policy were implemented, she said the city would never get as much CAP water back as APRW it puts into the canal and third, it increases Scottsdale's reliance on CAP water when the whole idea was to reduce it, she said.

Instead, she said Scottsdale needs to use its own APRW, calling the "toilet to tap," moniker those opposed to it use "kindergarten stuff."

But Dubauskas fired back at Whitehead.

"Councilwoman Whitehead, I'm a little bit surprised," Dubauskas said. "The election is over, the dire warnings are no longer needed. Our experts have just told us we have a lot of water. We don't seem to be in a dire case so I don't think it's appropriate to be talking in such strong language."

Dubauskas subtracted the amount of water Scottsdale uses from the amount it is legally entitled and noted Scottsdale is entitled is entitled to more than 50,000 acre feet than it is using.

"We have a lot of water," Dubausksas said.

What she said she wasn't excited about was the price tag for some of the water projects under consideration, like putting a pump station that would push effluent from Scottsdale north to the city's water treatment plant, where it can be treated to APRW standards.

However, Mayor Lisa Borowsky noted that acre foot to dollars ratio is only for the initial construction phase. It wouldn't cost that much once the plant is up and running.

"You're not comparing apples to apples," Borowsky said.

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# BUSINESS IN BRIEF

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## INI rebrands Scottsdale North News to Independent name

Independent Newsmedia Inc., USA, publisher of the Daily Independent at yourvalley.net and 21 community newspapers throughout the Valley, will rename several of its local publications to better identify all its products as published by a company whose mission is to provide objective and impartial journalism.

Beginning in November, all the company's community publications in Arizona will carry the name "Independent" in their mastheads, including Scottsdale North News, North Tatum Times, Phoenix View and Upper Westsider. INI purchased the four publications from Eculeus Group LLC, also known as EG Publishing, in December of 2024.

Eculeus Group owners Natasha and Brian Beal launched the print publication Scottsdale North News in September 2018, with the advertising support of local real estate broker Scott Gaertner.

"I believed the area deserved to be recognized as Scottsdale North, with an identity of its own," Gaertner said about the launch of the print publication, Scottsdale North News. "I believed something was missing in the northernmost part of Scottsdale. The area had extraordinary natural beauty, distinctive neighborhoods, and a lifestyle unlike anywhere else in the Valley. What it lacked was a shared identity that brought those communities together."


Scott Gaertner

The new masthead brings the publication under an established local news brand and reflects an expanded readership that will now include the 85254 ZIP code, beyond the original Scottsdale North communities.

"The rebranding will give our publications a uniform look and help readers and advertisers throughout the Valley better connect all our publications as being published by Independent Newsmedia," said President & CEO Charlene Bisson. "More importantly, the name better reflects our news values and the mission we've pursued for over 40 years here in the Valley of the Sun — that we are your nonpartisan and very independent hometown newspaper."


Charlene Bisson

Traditionally, the Independent rebrands the masthead shortly after newspapers are purchased but kept the names longer due to formerly selling advertising stories on the cover.

"Our name is synonymous with objective and impartial journalism," Bisson said. "We neither editorialize nor do we take sides, but having paid sponsored content on the covers didn't work with the Independent brand."

The company has operated the Scottsdale Independent since April 27, 1988, and purchased its first newspaper in Arizona in 1970. Today, INI covers 21 local communities in Maricopa County as well as covering state issues.

## Salt Creek Furniture celebrates decades of service

**By Connor Van Ligten**
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Salt Creek Furniture in Scottsdale is celebrating 35 years in business.

Founded in 1991, the store had humble beginnings, according to partner Jason Cameron.

"Our company got our start on Nov. 27 of 1991, and it didn't actually start out as a retail showroom presence. We actually started out with a patent on some lighting designs, as well as an office chair manufacturing facility in Canada," Cameron said. "We opened our first showroom in 1996, and my father Ed and my mother Tammy worked the showrooms. I joined the business full time in 2007, which is really when we started our growth and expansion."

The business being family-owned is an extremely important part of its identity, according to Guy Gabor of Salt Creek Furniture.

"What stands out to me working with the Camerons is how local it all is," Gabor said. "When you walk into a Salt Creek showroom, you're dealing with a family that lives here, hires here and has been furnishing Valley homes and offices since 1991."

> *"Thirty-five years is a long time for any independent retailer, and Salt Creek got there without ever leaving Arizona."*
>
> **Guy Gabor**
> Salt Creek Furniture

Cameron said that the business has grown considerably in those 35 years since they opened.

"Now, here in the Valley, we have seven stores in total, ranging from commercial office interiors, home and home office furniture to home furnishings," Cameron said. "Our newest store that we opened is our Hooker Furnishings Gallery, which is a well known brand in the industry."

Besides expansion, Cameron said that many things about the business have changed over the past 35 years.

"We've had to adapt to the changing landscape in the retail world. The invention of the online retail space has very much changed the way that we do business, and we have to maintain our competitiveness with the online retailers but also have a brick and mortar space for customers to actually come into the store and see our products," Cameron said. "...Things that have not changed with us are 100% our attitude towards customers and customer service. That's one of our large differentiating factors we feel between us and other retailers, both brick and mortar and online, is our approach to making sure that we have happy customers."

Salt Creek Home Furniture is located at 14202 N. Scottsdale Road. For more information, visit saltcreekhomefurniture.com.

**MORE ONLINE**
A full version on this article is online at the Daily Independent at **yourvalley.net**.

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# OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

### TAKE THE PLEDGE

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

### YOUR OPINION

We hope to stimulate debate, not control it on our opinions pages. We reserve the right to edit submitted opinions. We insist on civility. Please include your name, physical address 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.

Letters 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. Letter content is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

### SPEAK UP

We support the use of pen names. Too many people do not 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 promptly correct factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people we cover. Readers who disagree with a news story may respond with a letter.

## Facts over fiction on Scottsdale's water

Councilwoman Solange Whitehead's recent column claims city water professionals and her colleagues misled residents at the latest work-study session. The record says otherwise.

For months, Whitehead and her political ally Raoul Zubia have warned that Scottsdale's water security is in crisis and that Advanced Water Purification (AWP) is the only fix. The city's own experts presented a different picture.

Scottsdale holds legal rights to roughly 141,000 acre-feet per year. Last year we used about 90,800. That leaves a substantial surplus. Experts noted that even a potential 17 percent cut to our CAP allocation would not drop us below current use.

Our supply is diversified—CAP, SRP, reclaimed water, and groundwater. Experts also highlighted AWP's limits: very high cost per acre-foot and relatively small volume. It is not the all-purpose solution Whitehead and Zubia have promoted.

Those are the facts presented by city staff.

Whitehead dismissed the briefing, restated that our supply is insecure, and continued pushing AWP as the answer. She remains silent on the demand side. Her earlier high-density apartment rezonings—more than 6,000 units—use several times more water than single-family homes on the same land. The prior majority accelerated those projects; the current majority has slowed them.

Residents heard the experts. Scottsdale has a secure, diversified portfolio and practical options already in motion: stronger conservation, banking, system connections, and targeted acquisitions. Living in a de-sert requires vigilance—more conservation and smart investments. It does not require rushing to spend hundreds of millions on an experimental program that would supply only a small fraction of our needs while costs and rules are still unsettled.

City experts laid out the facts. We are listening to them and will continue asking Whitehead to work from those facts rather than political narratives. Not every issue needs to become a blame game.

**Jan Dubauskas**
MEMBER, SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL

### ATTENTION PLEASE!

We are committed to publishing a variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines

Please send comments to azopinions@iniusa.org. More letters are on **yourvalley.net**.

## Paper water should equal wet water

I have written 100 essays about Arizona water, runaway growth, sprawl, wildcat development, the Colo-rado River and the relentless destruction of the desert we keep claiming we want to save. At some point the argument has to become simpler: enough is enough.

We know the river is shrinking. We know groundwater is being overdrawn. We know the 100-year water guarantee has become buried beneath credits, certificates, transfers, replenishment schemes and legal language that almost nobody outside the system can follow. We know every new subdivision creates an-other permanent demand for water and permanently removes another piece of desert from the map. And still the answer from the growth machine is more growth.

Where are the adults in the room?

Who is willing to stand up and say Arizona does not have to build on every acre simply because some-body can make money doing it? Who is willing to tell a developer that getting land approved for growth does not mean the water exists to support it? Who is willing to tell the Chamber that growth cannot end-lessly be justified by the need to pay for the problems created by growth? Who is willing to tell elected officials that a 100-year assured water supply should mean 100 years of actual water, not 100 years of creative accounting?

Paper water should equal wet water. Make "assured" mean assured again.

And if the water is not physically there, leave the desert alone.

There has to come a point when protecting what remains matters more than finding one more way to keep the machine moving. Arizona is past that point.

Enough is enough. Adults in the room, please stand up.

**Rusty Childress**
RIO VERDE

## Helping Arizona teens become safer drivers

Getting a driver's license means freedom for teenagers, but for parents, it can bring fear and anxiety. In 2024, 2,320 teen drivers ages 15 to 18 died in auto crashes and more than 80,000 were injured.

Passing a driving test is just the beginning. In Arizona, teens generally need 30 hours of supervised driv-ing practice, but operating a vehicle isn't the same as making safe decisions in unpredictable situations.

• See **Opinions** Page 9

## Opinions

• From page 8

Sudden stops or lane changes, unpredictable pedestrians and weather issues can quickly create danger-ous situations for new drivers. Quality driver education helps teens learn to recognize hazards and re-spond safely.

This National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 18-24, marks the 20th annual observance promoting safer driving. Here are three important steps families can take to keep kids safer behind the wheel:

• Practice beyond the basics. Help teens gain experience on freeways, at night and in rainy conditions. Teach them to scan ahead, check blind spots, maintain safe following distances and anticipate hazards.

• Invest in professional training. Research driving schools, read reviews and ask for recommendations. Choose instructors who emphasize defensive driving and real-world decision-making. High-tech simula-tors can help students practice responding to dangerous scenarios, such as tire blowouts, before en-countering them on the road.

• Make safe decisions nonnegotiable. Require seat belts, ban cell phones, limit passengers, demand ad-herence to speed limits and forbid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Parents should model these habits, too.

As a driving instructor, my favorite moment is when students recognize hazards, slow down, create space and adjust without instructor intervention. That's when I know they've moved beyond simply operating a vehicle to thinking like safe drivers.

Longtime driving instructor Maria Wojtczak is CEO and co-founder of a Valley driving school.

**Maria Wojtczak**
SCOTTSDALE



### Charles Edward Bobbitt, Jr.

Charles "Charlie" Edward Bobbitt, Jr., died June 1, 2026, at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Born August 23, 1948, in Rainelle, West Virginia, Charlie was the son of Charles and Val-Gene Bobbitt. He graduated from East Bank High School in 1966. He served as an electrical engineer in the Navy from 1968 to 1972 aboard two ships, the U.S.S. Robison and the U.S.S. Joseph Strauss, and was a proud Vietnam veteran.

His military honors include the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal (Korea), the Combat Action ribbon, the National Defense Service medal, and a Navy Unit Commendation.

Following his military service, Charlie spent most of his career working for Motorola starting in sales and ending in quality control. This had him travelling all around the world where he would try to get in a round of golf wherever he could. He enjoyed most sports, excelling in baseball, tennis, golf, ping-pong, horseshoes and bowling. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in 1982 from the University of Phoenix. He also worked for On Semiconductor, Taser International and CS Innovations before retiring.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Joy Holbrook Bobbitt; children Jamieson Bobbitt and Brooke Bobbitt Searcy; grandchildren twins Kaley and Joslyn Searcy; brother Larry Bobbitt (wife Marcy) and sisters Christina Bobbitt Prettyman (husband Mike) and Shawn Bobbitt Yusten (husband John); and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He will be very much missed.

# Be a Civility Advocate!

## Civility Checklist

*How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues*

☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.

*Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at* ***yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.***

# EDUCATION

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# Desert Canyon students take theater to next level

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Desert Canyon Middle School used to have a full and thriving theater program for years, but it started to wither when its beloved theater teacher Kelly O'Rourke passed.

A few people tried to step in and take over, but never really got the program up to what it once was.

"In a lot of ways, it was just shoes that were too big to fill," Desert Canyon Principal Kristina Ambri said.

Then Natalie Boyle came on the scene last year and took over the theater director role.

She's turned a program of about 17 kids to just under 40.

And now Boyle has chartered Scottsdale Unified School District's first Junior Thespian Society Troupe.

The Junior Thespian Society is part of the International Thespian Society, a nationally recognized theater honor society administered by the Educational Theatre Association. Think of it as the National Honor Society for theater.



Desert Canyon Middle School theater students performed "Beauty and the Beast Jr." last year. (Courtesy Desert Canyon Middle School)

Students in the Junior Thespian Society can earn points toward membership into the International Thespian Society at the high school level, which can lead to earning an extra chord on your graduation gown... among other things.

"When you graduate high school, you can get honors and scholarships, all kinds of things," Boyle said.

But she said the rewards come even before that point.

> *"When you graduate high school, you can get honors and scholarships..."*
>
> **Natalie Boyle**
> Theater Director

"I really believe, especially at the middle school level, anything you can do to get kids expressing themselves and letting out feelings and starting to explore is really beautiful for community and self-esteem," Boyle said.

Theater is especially important for kids at the middle school level because it can help provide a safe place to learn about who they are and gain the confidence to express it, she said.

"I had a kid come in just at the start of this year and say to me, 'I'm really nervous. I don't have much confidence. I don't really know if I can even do this.'" Boyle said. "He auditioned for it, he's in the play. He's really participating and excited and loves it. In just a month and a half, he just saw a huge confidence boost from just getting that opportunity."

On Friday, Nov. 6, at 5:30 p.m., students will present "Much Ado About DCMS," an immersive production featuring a student-co-created script that combines scenes from Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" with contemporary pieces inspired by Shakespearean themes. The event will also feature a showcase of student theatrical designs, celebrating the creativity and contributions of students involved in technical theater.

In the spring, the troupe will produce its big musical, "Frozen Jr."

**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.**





# REMEMBER THE CANDY CANES ON PIMA ROAD?

A proposal for 77 homes brings back memories of one of North Scottsdale's strangest roadside landmarks

BY SCOTT GAERTNER | REAL ESTATE EDITOR

I don't remember what year I first saw the candy canes. I do remember the double take.

There they were along Pima Road near Happy Valley: giant candy canes, some twice as tall as the speed-limit sign. And not just red and white, either. Orange ones. Purple ones. Black and yellow ones. It looked like someone had planted a crop of them, and the crop had done very well.

Some years Santa sat beneath a painted saguaro. Plywood cowboys stood guard. There were sculptures I still can't fully explain. And in front of all of it stood bright yellow signs: NO TRESPASSING. Merry Christmas, now keep out.

**"The answer I heard over and over was, 'The owner's a kook.' "**

I asked plenty of people what was going on. The answer I heard over and over was, "The owner's a kook."

But as I eventually learned, there was quite a story behind those candy canes.

I started thinking about those candy canes again when I saw that the city was considering a 77-lot subdivision on the same stretch of land along Pima Road south of Happy Valley.

The land belonged to Henry Becker. A 2006 profile in 85255 magazine reported that he bought about 95 acres there at a 1995 Maricopa County auction. The property was zoned for large residential lots. Becker wanted commercial. The Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, known as COPP, opposed it, and the change never happened.

So Becker took his case to the public, or at least to everyone driving Pima Road. His hand-painted signs went after COPP, City Council members, mayors and anyone else he believed had done him wrong. "You Are Entering COPP'sdale" was one of the milder ones. The magazine called the whole thing "The Great Pima War."

Becker called his displays art. City officials and plenty of neighbors called them blight. The profile laid out his fights with the city, a lawsuit over a strip of Pima Road he said was his, a run for City Council and his support for recalling two council members. People cheered him or couldn't stand him. Almost nobody forgot him.

Then, at some point, the candy canes were gone. The stretch of Pima Road went back to plain desert, and I never did find out exactly when or why.




Shea Homes, acting on Henry Becker's behalf, is asking the city to rezone the 94.8 acres along the east side of Pima Road, extending south from Happy Valley Road, for a 77-lot subdivision. The Planning Commission was set to take up the request Oct. 28. Counting streets and open space, the plan works out to roughly one home per 1.2 acres. It still needs city approval.




Giant candy canes in a range of colors once lined Pima Road near Happy Valley Road, accompanied by bright yellow "NO TRESPASSING" signs. Photo by Rick D'Elia.

Becker spent years fighting for commercial development on that land. Now, after all that controversy, the property may finally be developed. Just not the way he wanted.

The road has changed, too. The Pima Road in Rick D'Elia's photograph is not the one you drive today. Between Pinnacle Peak and Happy Valley there are now three lanes each way, a landscaped median, bike lanes, sidewalks and a sound wall, a $50.2 million project, according to the city. It's a much nicer drive. It's also a lot less interesting.

The people who fought Becker were trying to keep that land quiet and open. In one way, they won: what's proposed now is homes, not shopping. But if the city says yes, the land won't stay empty much longer. And it definitely won't stay strange.

I won't miss the signs. I will miss the candy canes a little.

Do you remember the candy canes? Do you know when they disappeared, or why? Better yet, do you have a photograph or a story about that unforgettable stretch of Pima Road? Send it my way. I'd love to hear it, and we may share some of those memories in a future issue.



*Scott Gaertner is an Associate Broker with Keller Williams Arizona Realty and a 35-year Scottsdale North expert. He's helped thousands of people find their ideal lifestyle and shares local insights on ConnectingScottsdaleNorth.com. For more information, visit scottgaertnergroup.com or call 480-634-5000.*

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# Numbness, tingling, or burning? What to know about neuropathy and what type do you have?




Neuropathy is very common today. The majority of new patients in my office suffer from it and come to me for help. One of the biggest concerns is whether they really have peripheral neuropathy, and what is the cause. Burning, foot pain, or numbness may not be that simple of a diagnosis. It can be misdiagnosed quite often. Some of these symptoms may be caused by other conditions; here are just a few.

**Spinal stenosis may cause neuropathy symptoms**

I've treated spinal stenosis in my practice for 31 years. Yes, this may cause burning, numbness and tingling in the feet, but there is more to it. Spinal stenosis is a narrowing of spaces in your spine that put pressure on your spinal cord or your peripheral nerves. It's a severe condition that, in many cases, is manageable conservatively. It's generally caused because of degeneration of the discs between the vertebrae that compress the nerves or spinal cord, causing pain. It's degenerative and doesn't go away on its own. Although other symptoms may come and go, the condition is still there. My patients have great results with my specific protocols, and I've been able to save them from surgery.

**Poor circulation in the legs**

Poor circulation may be caused by diabetes, blood clots, peripheral artery disease (PAD), and more. In many cases, it is diminished by walking or rest. It's important to be tested for these other conditions so we can treat your neuropathy effectively.

**Foot Problems**

There are certain foot conditions that can cause neuropathy symptoms. We will examine the feet to determine if that is the cause of your symptoms.

**Serious spinal or brain conditions**

If your initial exam or imaging reveals either of these, we will refer you to an appropriate specialist.

**How we can differentiate between a neurological or circulation cause**

In my office, we have a test that takes about 15 minutes. It involves the use of 3 FDA cleared devices all in one, and it's covered by Medicare. The test assists in the early detection of peripheral artery disease (PAD), cardiometabolic risk, vascular health, and autonomic dysfunction from diabetes. This may allow alternative treatments to be rendered, before your condition becomes serious. To book an appointment for this simple test, please call my office today at 480-584-3955.

For any questions regarding my articles, please email me at DrLeisa@CaringPainRelief.com.

Leisa-Marie Grgula. DC
Chiropractic Physician
Accurate Care Medical Wellness Center
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# Law Talk

Sponsored Content

## Conversations Worth Having Before Carving the Turkey

**By: Allison Gloss**
THE LAW OFFICE OF LIBBY BANKS

Thanksgiving is one of the few days each year when the whole family is under one roof. The kids and the grandkids travel in, the extra chairs come out, and the whole day is spent cooking together in the kitchen. This is also one of the best opportunities you will have to talk about something that most families avoid: what happens when you are gone or when you can no longer make decisions for yourself.

The best time to have this conversation is when everyone is healthy, calm, and together. Waiting for a crisis means having the hard conversations in a hospital hallway, under stress, and possibly being too late. The holidays give you built-in time and a natural theme. Thanksgiving is about gratitude, and this conversation is an act of it: you are telling them that you care enough to spare them the confusion.

Start with why, and not numbers. You do not need to open with account balances or read your Trust aloud. Start with your reason. Try something like, "We updated our estate plan this year, and I want you to know who is responsible for what and where everything is kept." That single sentence opens the door without demanding a full discussion.

Focus on the information your children will actually need:

- Who you have chosen as successor trustee, executor, and agent under your financial and healthcare powers of attorney, and why.
- Where your documents are kept and how to contact your attorney.
- Your healthcare wishes, including who makes decisions if you cannot.
- The reasoning behind any unequal or unusual gifts.
- Who should receive sentimental items.

Maybe this conversation has you realizing your plan is out of date. Perhaps a child has married, a grandchild has been born, or the person you named as trustee has moved away or passed. The holidays are a good time to act on that. Many people have extra time off between Thanksgiving and the new year, and a few free hours is often all it takes to review your documents and schedule an appointment to have your documents updated. Don't let a busy calendar push it into next year.

Documents are only half of a good estate plan. The other half is a family that understands it. When children know your wishes, they can honor them rather than argue over them, and they can grieve without also having to decode your intentions. This year, after the turkey is carved and the dishes are done, consider giving your family something that will matter long after the leftovers are gone: clarity.

If these conversations are too difficult for you to have with your kids, let us do it for you. Our clients can join our Legacy Care Program that offers a Family Care Meeting and the Successor Trustee Training. In these meetings, we will gladly meet with your family and your successor Trustee to explain your estate plan to them and let them know what they can expect in the trust administration process.

If you are ready to put a plan in place, bring an existing one up to date, or learn more about our Legacy Care Program give our office a call at 602-375-6752 to schedule a free initial consultation.





At The Law Office of Libby Banks, we create highly customized estate plans that meet your unique situation, values, and personal goals. In our complimentary first meeting you will meet with one of our experienced attorneys to discuss your situation and determine what plan best fits your needs.

Remember, when you choose us, you are choosing an experienced team to create a plan that serves your family in the way that you want and, after you are gone, a trusted advisor that your loved ones can depend on. We pride ourselves on the relationships we form with our clients, so that they know they are taken care of and have peace of mind both now and into the future.

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Apache Junction - January 6, 2027 - Central Arizona College
Surprise - January 19, 2027 - The Colonnade
Litchfield/Goodyear - February 17, 2027 - Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek)
Chandler - February 23, 2027 - Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria - March 25, 2027 - Westbrook Village
Sun City West - April 13, 2027 - SCW Foundation Center
Sun City - May 3, 2027 - Sundial Recreation Center

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# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

## PRO RODEO

**ABOUT:** 3-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 5-7, Cave Creek Rodeo Grounds, 37201 N. 28th St., Cave Creek.
**INFO:** Professional rodeo competitors will gather for the Turquoise Circuit event, part of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's regional competition system. The three-day event showcases rodeo athletes competing within the circuit.
**WEB:** turquoisecircuitfinalsrodeo.com



**Professional rodeo competitors will gather for the Turquoise Circuit Pro Rodeo Nov. 5-7 at the Cave Creek Rodeo Grounds.(Submitted photo/TCFR)**

## JINGLE AT JW

**ABOUT:** Through Jan. 3 at JW Desert Ridge. 5350 E Marriott Drive, Phoenix.
**INFO:** Register online for a Christmas tradition at Desert Ridge, bring "Elf" to life in a breathtaking frozen world.
**WEB:** jwdesertridgechristmas.com



## ART GALLERY

**ABOUT:** Through Nov. 29 at Royse Contemporary, 7077 E. Main St., Suite 6.
**INFO:** "Paintings in Perspective," a solo exhibition by Casey Wakefield. This new collection explores the intricate relationship between perception and experience, inviting viewers to consider how the act of seeing shapes—and is shaped by—our understanding of the world around us.
**WEB:** roysecontemporary.com

## CAREFREE MARKET

**ABOUT**: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, Carefree Sundial Gardens, 101 Easy St., Carefree.
**INFO:** The weekly outdoor market features seasonal produce, locally made foods, flowers and artisan merchandise. The market takes place in downtown Carefree near the town's landmark sundial.
**WEB:** carefreecavecreek.org

## CRAFT & BAKE SALE

**ABOUT:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, American Legion Post 34, 6272 E. Cave Creek Road, Cave Creek.
**INFO:** American Legion Post 34 will host a community craft fair and bake sale. The event offers an opportunity to browse crafts and baked goods while supporting a local veterans organization.
**WEB:** azpost34cavecreek.org

## LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC

**ABOUT:** 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays throughout November, Buffalo Chip Saloon and Steakhouse, 6823 E. Cave Creek Road, Cave Creek.
**INFO:** Resident band Pick O' The Litter performs live music five nights a week at the Western-style saloon. The venue also offers free line-dancing lessons Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7 p.m., with couples dance lessons Thursdays at 7 p.m.
**WEB:** buffalochipsaloon.com

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**ABOUT:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13-14, Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church, 36811 N. Pima Road, Carefree.
**INFO:** Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church will host its two-day Christmas bazaar, offering a seasonal community shopping event ahead of the holidays.
**WEB:** carefreecavecreek.org

## ARTS FESTIVAL

**ABOUT:** 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7-8 at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix
**INFO:** The free two-day festival showcases more than 40 Arizona artists and includes art demonstrations, authors and illustrators, live music, food vendors, a silent auction and the fourth annual Sidewalk Chalk Festival.
**WEB:** shemerartcenter.org

## BLUE ZONES

**ABOUT:** 9-10 a.m. Sundays. Outdoor Movement Moai at Mountain View Park, 8625 E. Mountain View Road, Scottsdale. Chaparral Park Lunch and Walk Moai. 11:30 a.m.-noon sack lunch and 12:30 p.m. group walk through Dec. 21 at Chaparral Park, 5401 Hayden Road..
**INFO:** Blue Zones Project Scottsdale is bringing neighbors together through a series of free gatherings called "moais" (pronounced moh-eyes), and there's something for everyone.
**WEB:** bluezonesprojectscottsdale.com

## YOUR EVENTS, PLEASE

We welcome your events for our neighborhood To-Do List page. Please send the following for publication in our calendar: name of the event, time, date and location with address and if there is a cost to attend.
Email us: **aznews@iniusa.org**

## IN EVENTS

The Independent will host a senior expo 9 a.m.-noon March 3 at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. Businesses wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email us: **azad@iniusa.org**



## SPARKLE IN THE GARDEN

**ABOUT:** Noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at Orange Tree Golf Resort, 10601 N. 56th St., Scottsdale.
**INFO:** The Sparkle Foundation will host its second fundraising brunch to support single mothers and their children. The garden-themed event will feature a plated lunch, champagne toast, wine tasting, event photography and an appearance by emcee JayDee Milo.
**WEB:** sparklenow.org

## HIDDEN IN THE HILLS

**ABOUT:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 20-22 and 27-29, participating artist studios throughout Cave Creek, Carefree and North Scottsdale.
**INFO:** The Sonoran Arts League's 30th annual Hidden in the Hills Artist Studio Tour invites the public to visit working artists' studios, watch demonstrations, meet artists and purchase original artwork. The free, self-guided tour includes locations throughout the Desert Foothills, with participating studios and maps available online. Visitors may select studios within their preferred area.
**WEB:** sonoranartsleague.org/hidden-in-the-hills



**Scottsdale artist Jeanne Bonine is one of 151 artists participating in the 30th Annual Hidden in the Hills Artist Studio Tour, taking place over the last two weekends of November. (Submitted photo/Jon Linton Photography)**

## THANKSLIVING MUSIC

**ABOUT:** Friday-Monday, Nov. 27-30, Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, 7415 E. Elbow Bend Road, Carefree. Concerts are scheduled Nov. 27-29.
**INFO:** The second annual festival will feature tropical rock performances by Mark Mulligan, John Patti, Carrie Welling and Rudy B, along with a Jimmy Buffett tribute show. Individual concert tickets, including meals, and multiday lodging packages are available for purchase.
**WEB:** sitdmusic.com

## "THE NUTCRACKER: CLARA AND THE LAND OF DREAMS"

**ABOUT:** 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at The Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., Phoenix
**INFO:** DC Dance AZ presents a re-imagined version of the holiday story in which Clara follows the Mouse Queen through a magical clock into a world of fairies, toy soldiers, and dolls.
**WEB:** themadison.org


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## E-Bikes

• From page 1

that included a new ordinance cracking down on e-bikes.

There was no discussion on the issue before the vote that night and the council never had a work study session on whether the ordinance was necessary.

City Councilman Adam Kwasman said he doesn't recall if there ever was an issue with e-bikes and doesn't hear about them from residents now.

There is anecdotal evidence from some council members that e-bikes were a problem before the ordinance, though.

City Councilman Barry Graham said he never got "a lot" of complaints but there was "a steady stream" of them before the ordinance.

City Councilwoman Maryann McAllen said she was getting "a ton" of emails about e-bike riders using them inappropriately in parks and other pathways, impeding people's right of way, before the ordinance was passed. There were problems with kids behaving dangerously while riding the faster bikes that are really electric motorcycles, she said, but she added there were a lot of problems with tours scrunching up riders and clogging paths.

"Not all tour operators are the same," McAllen said. "Some of the operators are really good and they say, 'stay single file.' They will be in a long line, they'll have someone in the front and some in the back, as opposed to bunching all up in a group, which doesn't help the joggers, the casual dog walkers, things of that nature."

She said things have gotten a lot better from a year ago.

"Our police department has done a fabulous job in going to the schools and having (school resource officers) explain and going to the bike shops and explaining to parents, these are actual motor vehicles," McAllen said. "If your kid is under 16, he can't be driving it. Education was the key to all of this."

There are three classes of e-bikes.

First there are class one, which can only go up to 21 mph and the electric motors only kick in if the rider is already pedaling. They are

• See **Council** Page 17



**There is no hard evidence that the number of problems involving e-bikes are coming down in Scottsdale, but fire department officials say accidents are on the rise. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)**

## Council

• From page 16

sometimes called pedal assisted e-bikes.

Class two e-bikes have pedals, though they can be operated by the throttle only as well. They also must stay under 21 mph to be considered a class two.

Class three is just like a class two except it can go over 21 mph.

The law the council passed prevents kids under 16 from riding class three e-bikes. It also bans the use of e-bikes in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

What is clear, however, is that e-bikes aren't getting any safer.

The Scottsdale Fire Department responded to two calls related to e-bikes with no one being transported to a hospital. However, that number jumps to seven calls in 2024, with four of them resulting in someone being transported to local hospitals

Last year, first responders answered six calls for service with five of them requiring transportation to the hospital, and all eight calls for service through June of this year resulted in transports to the hospital.

"Research shows that e-bikes can be more dangerous than traditional bicycles because they travel at much higher speeds, increasing the risk and severity of crashes," Scottsdale Fire Department spokeswoman Lori Stauffer said in an email to the Daily Independent. "According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), e-bikes were associated with approximately 53,000 emergency room visits and 104 deaths between 2017 and 2022."

E-bike ordinances became a hot button issue in the Valley in the summer and fall of 2025, when cities like Gilbert and Chandler began looking at them, while Scottsdale, Glendale and Chandler created new ones.






## Resue

• From page 1

of Infinity has saved more than 500 dogs from euthanasia lists. The organization works with Maricopa County Animal Care and Control, which partners with rescues, fosters and adopters to help animals find homes.

The county reports that its shelter system has maintained a save rate above 90% for eight consecutive years. Its Priority Placement Portal highlights dogs at risk of euthanasia who need urgent support, though many are ultimately adopted, placed with rescue partners like Heart of Infinity or moved into foster homes.

"There are just never enough rescues to save dogs, unfortunately. Every week, dogs are still being euthanized for an array of reasons," Ayoub said. "So there's always gonna be that need. We've tried to bridge that gap since we started the rescue."

Heart of Infinity operates entirely through community support and foster homes rather than a facility.

"I think if people are aware of what's happening and how wonderful these dogs are, I think more and more people would focus on either fostering or adopting versus going to breeders," she said.

Ayoub also wants to challenge the stigma surrounding shelter dogs, particularly those labeled fearful or difficult to adopt.

"Once you get these dogs out of that environment, they really are just like any other dog," she said.

Carol Davis, one of the rescue's foster volunteers, has worked with Heart of Infinity for about two years and has been involved in animal rescue for longer. She initially applied to foster a dog on the euthanasia list but learned she was too late to save that particular animal. After speaking with Ayoub, she decided to continue with the process.

"I liked her so much on the phone that I just moved forward and wanted to help if it wasn't that dog, then another dog," Davis said.

A few weeks later, another dog urgently needed a foster that same morning. Davis took him in for a couple of weeks, and he eventually moved to Colorado, where he now has his own Instagram page.

Davis said the constant barking, unfamiliar surroundings and limited opportunities to decompress can make shelter life difficult for dogs.

Foster homes help dogs show their personalities, while the rescues community events give potential adopters a chance to meet them.

Heart of Infinity uses a thorough adoption process to ensure each dog finds the right fit.

"We want to be mindful, and we do have kind of a lengthy adoption process, but it's only because we want to ensure that the dog's next stop is going to be its forever home versus having to bounce the dog around and kind of reset all the progress the foster made," Ayoub said.

Both Ayoub and Davis encourage residents to spay and neuter their pets, avoid supporting backyard breeders, volunteer at shelters and foster or adopt when possible.

Davis said fostering can help save a dog's life even when someone cannot commit to adoption.

"If someone doesn't apply to foster, we can't pull a dog," she said. "So if someone can't adopt but still wants to help, apply to foster and just take a dog temporarily until we can find it an adopter, and that interim saves a life."

Those interested in fostering or adopting through Heart of Infinity can visit heartofinfinity.org or follow @heartofinfinityrescue on Instagram.



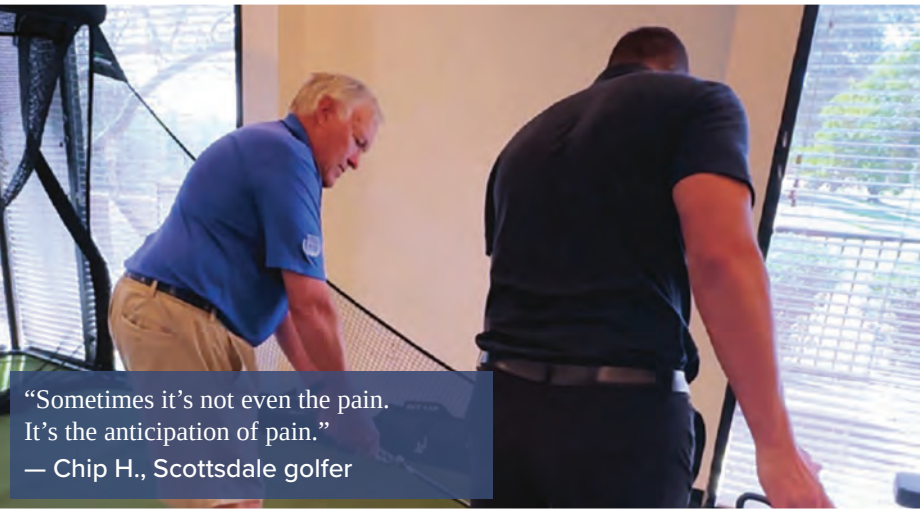




THE ACTIVE ADULTS EDITION · PART 1 OF 3: GOLFERS

# Still Playing Golf, But Holding Back on Your Swing?

*Why back, hip, and sciatica pain has so many Scottsdale golfers hitting shorter than they used to, and what a TPI-certified Doctor of Physical Therapy looks for first.*




Dr. Lance Martin, PT, DPT, TPI-certified, checks how a golfer's hips and back share the work of the swing.

You still play. Maybe three or four times a week.

But something changed. You swing a little easier now. You think twice before you turn hard through the ball. You wonder how your back will feel tonight, or tomorrow morning when you get out of bed.

Nobody in your foursome says anything. But they've noticed you're not hitting it as far. You think about it on the walk from the tee box back to the cart.

Or maybe you've already stopped. The clubs are in the garage, and you keep telling people you'll get back out "once the back settles down." You call it being smart. Part of you knows you'd rather be back on the course.

## THE BACK USUALLY ISN'T WHERE IT STARTS

The golf swing is a rotation, and most of it should come from your hips and mid-back. When those stop turning the way they used to, from years at a desk, an old injury, or simply moving less, the swing still has to happen. So your lower back turns instead. It was never built for that job.

That's how stiffness after a round becomes pain in the glute, the hip, or down the leg.

## WHY NOTHING CARRIES OVER TO THE COURSE

Then come the different answers. You get stretched. You get a massage. It helps a little, for a day or two. But nothing seems to carry over to the course.

So you figure your only options are to take it easy, play less, or stop swinging so hard.

There's another option: find out which link isn't doing its job.

## WHAT A TPI SCREEN LOOKS FOR

Dr. Lance Martin and our Doctors of Physical Therapy are certified through the Titleist Performance Institute, the system used worldwide to evaluate how the body affects the golf swing. In one visit, they look at hip rotation, mid-back rotation, how your pelvis and spine share the work, your balance, and your core stability.

Dylan J., a Scottsdale golfer, had visited close to twenty clinics for low back and hip pain. "Now I can swing a golf club almost every day without thinking about my back."

## WHO THIS IS FOR

If back, hip, or sciatica pain has changed how you play, or whether you play, this is for you.

If you've tried stretching, massage, injections, or another round of therapy and it didn't hold, this is for you.

If someone mentioned surgery and your gut said slow down, this is for you.



### TRY THIS TONIGHT: THE HIP ROTATION CHECK

Sit on the floor with your knees bent and feet a little wider than your hips. Keeping your chest tall, let both knees fall slowly to one side, then the other. If one side won't go as far, or your upper body twists to help, that hip may not be turning, and your back may be making up for it on every swing.


## Two Ways to Get Answers

**Ready to find out what's driving it?** Each month we reserve a limited number of TPI Golf Back & Hip Screens for golfers whose back, hip, or sciatica pain has lasted longer than three months. It's one-on-one with a Doctor of Physical Therapy. You'll leave knowing what may be driving your pain and your next step to get back on the tee box with confidence, even if that step isn't with us.

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| | | | | | | | | 9 |

Level: Beginner

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down 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:

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

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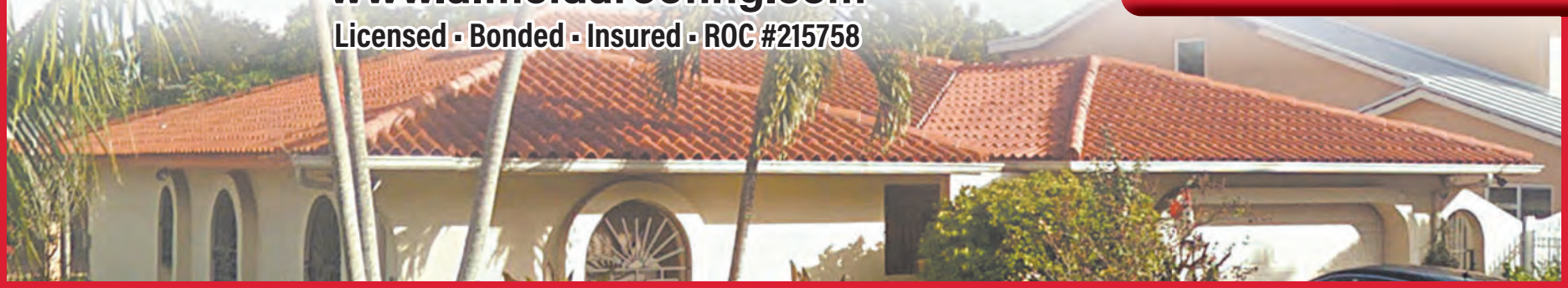



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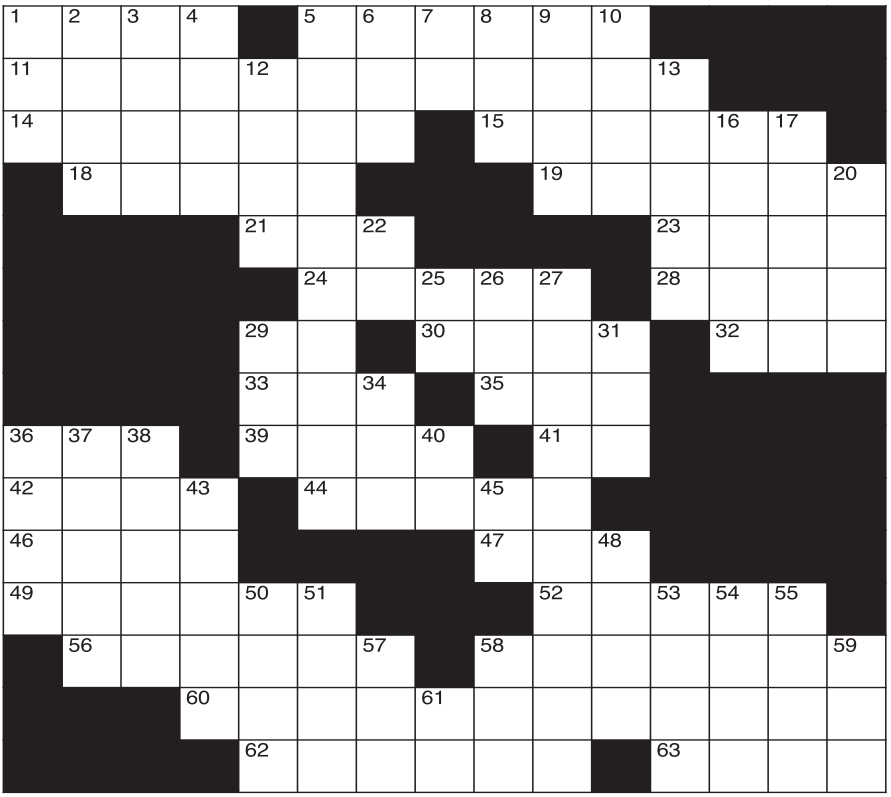
**THANKS FOR THE VOTES - Best of Peoria!**

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## CROSSWORD BY METRO CREATIVE SERVICES



### CLUES ACROSS

1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

### CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

SOLUTION ON PAGE 23

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PUZZLE ON PAGE 21

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# THANK YOU

## A good year isn't measured in sales. It's measured in the people around the table.

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2026 CLIENTS

Marge Boisvert-Nelson · Dennis and Ruth Evans · Paul and Maureen W. · Werner and Sharon Graef · Jinny Iverson · Richard and Elaine Johnson · Mark and Denise Bowen · Dan and Debbie Youngman · Aaron and Barb Michaelson · Gerry L. · Ric and Monica Justus · Marty and Chris Florian · David C. and Barry K. · Dan and Kathy M. · Kit Conner · Randy and Sherie Eschels · Rich and Vikki Bailey · Steve Pirrone · Jim and Janice Paulsen · The Pierson Family Trust · Steve P. and Carolin L. · Paul and Janel Kasowski · Joe and Ronna L. · Jim and Carol S. · Frank and Kathy B. · Leanne Fullerton · Bob Gray and Paula Dorion-Gray · Carl and Sandy Marion · Steve and Judy W. · John and Mary B. · Ken and Julie Cates · Wendy and Rob C. · John and Kelly Clays · Joan Gemoll

and to everyone else we had the privilege of working with this year



To our clients, thank you for trusting us with your homes and for letting us be part of your next chapter. Your confidence, your kindness and your referrals carried us this year. We are grateful for each of you and for the relationships we have built.

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