TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY
INDEPENDENT
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Volume 43 Issue 45

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Teen earns perfect score 12



NOVEMBER 11, 2026

Arizona's Nonpartisan Newspaper

Town may phase out alarm monitoring program

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Paradise Valley Town Council discussed the future of the town's alarm monitoring program during an Oct. 22 study session, ultimately directing staff to begin planning a gradual phaseout of the service.

Police Chief Freeman Carney told council members that residents using the town's alarm monitoring program must work with three separate entities when establishing service or resolving issues: the town, a third-party company that sells the alarm equipment and Becklar, the company contracted by Paradise Valley to provide monitoring.



Freeman Carney

"For our customers, it can get a little disorganized for them at times because they have to go to three different types of entities to get answers," Carney said.

The town's alarm system is estimated to save approximately four minutes during an emergency, Carney said.

Under the program, police dispatch is notified first and attempts to contact the resident. With a traditional alarm company, the company typically attempts to contact the resident before notifying police.

However, Carney emphasized the estimated time savings depend on ideal circumstances.

• See **Alarm** Page **18**

Hearts of Infinity gives shelter dogs a second chance

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

An area 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 Hearts 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, Hearts 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 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 Hearts of Infinity or moved into foster homes.

• See **Rescue** Page **25**



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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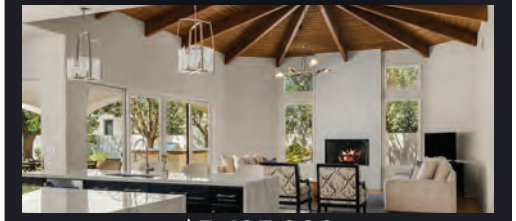
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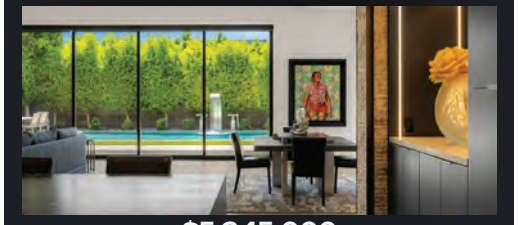
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SOMETIMES THE BEST DEAL IS THE ONE WHERE YOU MAKE NOTHING

BY GREG HAGUE

Some of the best real estate deals I've ever been part of made us absolutely nothing.

I know. That's a strange thing for a businessman to say.

A few years ago, for several months, we gave away every dollar of commission we earned to help build a new women and children's center for Phoenix Rescue Mission. My company contributed its commissions. My agents contributed theirs.



Together, we raised a lot of money to help build a home for homeless women and children, something our city desperately needed. A newspaper column about the effort said I'd gone from a man of wealth to a man of worth. Those words have stayed with me.

I've spent more than five decades in real estate. It's been very good to me, and I'm grateful. Along the way, I've learned something. When you concentrate on giving rather than getting, good things have a funny way of finding their way back to you.

Which brings me to something I've decided to do for the next three months.

As you know, today's housing market is difficult. High mortgage rates have made buying a home painfully expensive. Sellers are struggling to find buyers, and many need every dollar of equity to afford their next move.

> ***So I started thinking. What could we do to help? Here's what I decided to do.***

Through the end of January, we're helping Arizona homeowners who are short on equity sell their homes. We will charge them a flat fee of less than $1,000 instead of a percentage commission. And if waiving even that fee is what it takes to make the numbers work, we'll do that, too.

We expect the average seller to save $15,000 to $30,000 in commissions. The goal is to help them pay off their mortgage and have enough left to begin their next chapter.

This won't be some discounted, do-it-yourself version of real estate service. The whole enchilada. Compelling ad copy, optimized photos, listing on the MLS and home search portals, expert negotiation of offers, protection of the seller's interests in the contract, and full representation through closing.

No upcharges. No strings attached. If a seller isn't happy, they can cancel any day and walk away.

We're limiting this to homes priced under $1 million and sellers who genuinely need the help because their equity is tight, not those simply looking to increase their profits. That generally excludes our community of Paradise Valley, where homes tend to be considerably more expensive and most of us are fortunate not to face the same financial pressures.

My agents deserve to be paid fairly for their work, so I'll personally contribute to each sale to make sure they are.

Is that sustainable forever? I honestly don't know. But we can do it through January, and that's where we'll start.

Some sellers may buy another home locally and choose one of my agents. Others may recommend us to friends and family. Perhaps that future business will help us keep the program going longer.

But even if it doesn't, think about what we might accomplish.

A seller could make a home more affordable without giving up the equity needed to move on. A buyer could finally afford a home that was previously out of reach. Two families helped by taking thousands of dollars in selling costs out of the middle. That's a satisfying day's work.

At this stage of my life, I'm fortunate to be able to do things like this. And frankly, it feels good.

Maybe that's the lesson I've learned after more than fifty years in business. What you do with what you've been given matters more than what you've accumulated.

> ***You don't always have to make money to come out ahead.***

Greg Hague CEO, 72SOLD

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If an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Area businessman secures funding for aviation fuel plant

A new partnership will help finance the development of one of the nation's largest sustainable aviation fuel projects, a woody biomass-based biorefinery planned for Washington State. This week, Northwest Advanced Bio-Fuels announced a funding partnership with Black Gold Equity Partners, a private equity platform that finances and transforms innovative businesses into institutional-quality operating platforms.

"One of the greatest challenges facing the sustainable fuels industry isn't technology — it's access to capital," said Dave Smoot, a Scottsdale business owner and founder of Northwest Advanced Bio-Fuels. "Black Gold Equity Partners understands what it takes to build a project like this one. Their backing helps us move from concept to construction, and we believe it shows what's possible for sustainable fuel infrastructure across the country."

The partnership comes as industry-wide mandates and standards for lower-carbon transportation fuels take effect across global markets beginning in 2030.

Railroad park to unveil updated Merci Train exhibit

The McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park's Merci Train boxcar will debut an updated exhibit Nov. 13, offering visitors a closer look at a unique piece of Arizona and American history.

The exhibit explores the 1949 Merci Train, a gift from the people of France to the United States in appreciation for the generosity of Americans who sent food and supplies to France following World War II through the Friendship Train.



Questers Four Peaks No. 1207 members Kay Hatcher, Tonie Lindenberger, Betty Crisanti, Nell Bigley, Alice Helton, Sandy Stafford and Betsy Stambaugh standing by the new storyboard panels added in 2025 surrounding the Merci Train at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. (Submitted photo/Betsy Stambaugh)

Arizona received one of 49 boxcars filled with gifts from French communities. Its boxcar is among the few that remain intact, with its original contents still accounted for.

Arizona Questers Four Peaks Chapter No. 1207 helped to curate historical stories and materials, shape the updated exhibit and contribute about $8,000 toward improvements.

The group has been involved in preserving the Merci Train's history, including creating and installing eight educational storyboards around the boxcar in 2025, according to chapter members.

The refreshed exhibit will feature artifacts on loan from the Arizona Capitol Museum, with items rotated periodically to give visitors opportunities to see different pieces of the collection, according to Questers members.

The opening celebration will begin at 1 p.m. Nov. 13 and include a dedication ceremony and a presentation by Carissa Whiting, curator of the Merci Train Collection at the Arizona Capitol Museum.

The event is free and open to the public. Visitors can view the updated exhibit and learn more about the friendship and gratitude behind this historic exchange.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is at 7301 E. Indian Bend Road in Scottsdale.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

21 years ago, Paradise Valley began its Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show the week of Nov. 11, veterans day. The annual event features pre-1985 sports, antique, special-interest and race cars, along with motorcycles. Today, the show brings the community together to admire vintage automobiles, connect with neighbors and honor local veterans.

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BUSINESS NEWS

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Collab Medspa celebrates 10 years

Built on community relationships

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For Shani McKee and Andrea Jefferson, running a medspa has always been about more than skincare treatments.

It is about the relationships built with clients who have returned year after year, sharing life milestones along the way.

The co-founders of Collab Medspa are celebrating 10 years in business in Scottsdale this October, marking a decade that included a transition away from a franchise, navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and growing a loyal client community.

More than 100 clients have been with the business for six years or longer, something Jefferson said she is grateful for.

"I have a lot of gratitude for those who have really stood by us," she said. "We've had a lot of people who have supported us for a long time, and I just, I can't even believe it sometimes."

Today, the medspa offers services ranging from facials, acne treatments and chemical peels to injectables, laser treatments and massage.

But the owners say the experience extends beyond the treatment room.

"It's not just building a relationship with our aesthetician, it's building a relationship with us, too," Jefferson said.



Owners and co-founders of Collab Medspa Shani McKee and Andrea Jefferson at their business. (Submitted photo/Collab Medspa)

"So I think they just feel that sense of community when they come in."

That sense of community is something McKee and Jefferson work to maintain themselves. Even after 10 years in business, both owners continue to work at the front desk, welcoming clients and staying involved in the daily operations.

For McKee, being present allows the owners to maintain the standards and culture they want throughout the business.

"We're the ones here running the operations day in and day out, so we get to instill the right culture and maintain that right culture with our aestheticians, and our massage therapists, and our nurses that work for us," McKee said. "That is huge, having owners actually being the ones operating the business, during open hours."

The hands-on approach has helped the owners foster a welcoming environment in which clients can build relationships with the entire team, rather than feeling connected to only one provider.

Reaching 10 years also represents a significant business milestone for McKee and Jefferson.

"It's just definitely a sense of accomplishment, and we definitely stay focused on growing the business, and keeping your foot on the gas, not on the brakes," McKee said.

As they reflect on the past decade, both owners said they are grateful to have built a business that helps people feel confident while creating connections in the community.

The team and community members celebrated milestone at an anniversary event Thursday, Oct. 22, at 10893 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 102. The event included food, drinks, activities and prize drawings featuring skincare products, treatments and gifts from local businesses.

> *"It's not just building a relationship with our aesthetician, it's building a relationship with us, too"*
>
> **Andrea Jefferson**
> **Co-founder of Collab Medspa**

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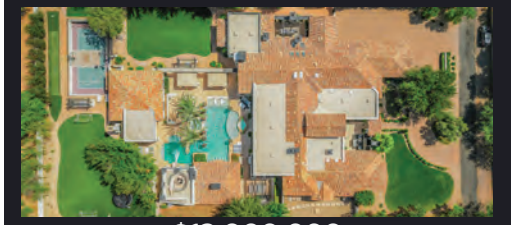
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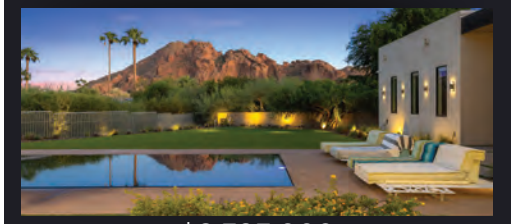
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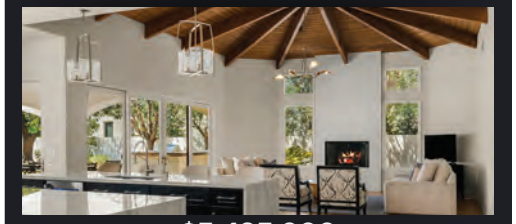
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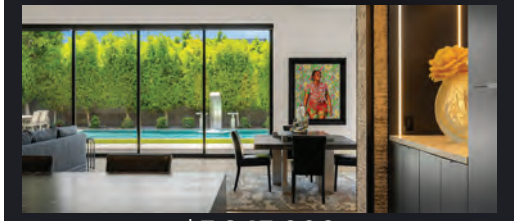
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Letters judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will 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.

Savor the season of connection

Welcome November, the "Month of Connection." At least that is what I call it, because people tend to get together all month long. Then the culminating event for most of us will be on Thursday, Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day.

Actually, it gets better because food is the major connector. That makes this month the perfect time to get the word out about nutrition. Nature has come forth with a wonderful lesson designed to enhance this social time: Foods that look like parts of the body are especially good for those parts. As it turns out the sweet potato, very popular this month, looks like the pancreas, and that means eating it helps the pancreas do its job of regulating blood sugar.

Children are not home very much these days. However, on this one day many families will gather, and food will be a big focus. That is great because eating is both for nutrition and bonding. We "break bread" to share time together.

Children really need our help these days. They have to know that food is not a toy or something for play. These are four basic guidelines for teaching children.

1. Serve them foods that have different colors and textures.

2. Tell them about the need to chew all food pieces well.

3. Avoid giving them snacks in strollers, while walking or during play.

4. Serve meals at a table and enjoy time together.

Here is a quirky thought but a good one: Books provide nutrition for the brain, and reading to children is the absolute best. However, in reality this activity includes being able to give your full attention. Not so easy these days. Imagine that "in-person" has become a valued commodity to savor. Savor it well this November. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sally Goldberg
FOUNTAIN HILLS

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**.

Keeping mobility an investment

We may all lose just a little bit of the spring in our step as we age, but slowing down does not mean we need to give up our independence. Taking time to work on mobility and balance is a key part of the strategy for aging well and moving confidently into the future.

As a physical therapist, my focus is on clients who have suffered injuries from falls or who are in recovery from surgeries. Physical therapists also help treat individuals who can no longer leave their home safely without assistance.

Movement is the basis of what physical therapists are trained to help patients with, no matter what their age or condition. Regular physical activity helps support muscle strength, mobility of joints, cardiopulmonary endurance and neuromuscular coordination.

A major concern for many clients is whether they will be able to maintain their mobility and be able to walk confidently, get up from a chair, climb stairs or carry groceries safely into their home. This is a space where physical therapy can play a major role in assisting patients to improve their overall quality of life.

Stability and balance with transfers, standing and walking activities are critically important and often something we ignore as we age.

Everyone is at a different level and may need to focus on different parts of their body to be able to achieve their highest level of function.

Among the biggest challenges we encounter with patients is the thought of exercise being unnecessary to maintain their health. Patients often look at exercise as an obligation, but with proper education by medical professionals, including physical therapists, they can see it as an investment in their future. This will help lead patients to increased independence as they age and allow them to continue doing the things that they love.

Geoffrey Miller

Geoffrey Miller is lead physical therapist at Home Assist Health, a Phoenix-based nonprofit serving seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Fentanyl overdose statistics alarming

While deaths from drug overdoses across the United States declined during each of the last three years, they have surged in Arizona.

• See **Opinions** Page **20**



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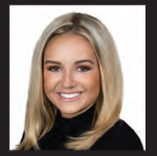
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Meet the area teen with a perfect ACT score

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Scottsdale Prep Senior Nila Kumara earned a perfect score on her ACT, which is impressive on its own.

What's more impressive is Kumara was able to do this while competing in three varsity sports, serving in multiple student leadership roles, and spending more than 190 hours volunteering for the Scottsdale Public Library.

"Scottsdale Prep allowed me to be accelerated in math, so I was able to move up one year in my math courses, which allowed me to cover all the material way in advance before my testing," Kumara said. "A lot of preparation outside of school, sitting at home the two weeks before the test and cramming in on the questions that I kept getting wrong on the practice test."

The moment Kumara found out her score is a memory she'll never forget.

"My test scores were delayed, and I was sitting in my physics class with my teacher Mrs. Coolidge and the lead college counselor Ms. Monica Ware," Kumara said. "I had called ACT, I had set up my site and I opened up my scores and I saw the perfect 36. I was jumping up and down and hugging Mrs. Coolidge and getting congratulated by Ms. Ware. I called my mom. It was a great experience and I was really happy about it."

There's a lot more to Kumara than just her perfect ACT score. She hopes to pursue political science and economics in college, and is interested in the topic of education and education equity. One day, she'd like to attend law school as well.

"Scottsdale Prep allowed me to delve in Latin and Latin history. It let me see how many similarities and differences there was between our government back then and today. That led me to get more interested in government and policy today and how they are similar or different from the past," Kumara said.



Scottsdale Prep Senior Nila Kumara earned a perfect score on the ACT. (Submitted photo/Hayley Ringle)

The library also helped her to see a potential path through further education, Kumara said.

"I was also volunteering at the library a lot over those couple of summers when I was figuring out what I really wanted to do," she said. "Because of that, I became interested specifically in education policy and then through a couple of internships and different activities outside of school, I was able to see and observe senate and representative meetings and see how they were passing bills and policies."

Ware said Kumara works as hard as she is talented, and that her dedication to her passions both inside and outside school make her stand out among her peers.

Kumara is a National Merit semi-finalist moving forward to the final stage. She was in the top percentile for the PSAT, and has a 4.0 unweighted GPA. Her weighted GPA is the highest amongst all students at Scottsdale Prep.

"I've always been impressed with her. She's very bright and naturally intelligent but also works really hard. Her civic engagement and community involvement is something that is pretty rare at our school to be involved with inside and outside school grounds," Ware said. "I've been impressed with her ability to communicate her future goals while also talking about her past experiences. Her overall hard work and dedication to the community make such a solid impact."

Kumara's involvement in civics is something she does on and off campus.

"Speech and debate helped me a lot with learning about policy itself, but I wanted to actually interact with elections, campaigns, and candidates. So I started out building a civic education curriculum with an organization called ProGov, which is centered towards young women," Kumara said. "As I learned more myself from creating that curriculum, I got connected with one of the local campaigns. So for the last couple of years, I've been working on local campaigns as well as local initiatives such as Save Our Schools Arizona."

Kumara wants to go to college somewhere that is civically engaged where she can further her education and also get involved in the local community. She isn't sure if she wants to stay in Arizona or go to somewhere like Washington, D.C., or California, but Ware is sure she'll be a great fit for whatever university she decides on.

"I think she set herself up for success in challenging herself early on, even back in middle school, and continuing to grow and flourish. I would not be surprised if she got a lot of acceptance letters and even some scholarships," Ware said. "We can't predict what application season will look like, but she's certainly been putting in the hard work not just to apply, but work really hard on her essays and building a rapport through teachers to set her best foot forward. She's not just depending on her grades."

Ultimately, Kumara's advice to her peers is to find the joy in working hard, and finding something you're passionate about that you'll dedicate countless hours to.

"Find a way to make the hard work enjoyable. Ultimately, it's all towards achieving your goals and your dreams," Kumara said. "Find that initiative yourself, not your purpose, because we shouldn't have to find our greatest purpose in life as teenagers, but knowing what we desire. As long as we have that in mind, that's the biggest reward in all of this."

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Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport to add seven new routes

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is planning seven new airline routes, with some starting as soon as November.

- Edmonton, Alberta
Porter Airlines
Begins in November
- Santa Rosa, California
Alaska Airlines
Begins in November
- Imperial, California
Advanced Airlines
Begins in November
- Lincoln, Nebraska
American Airlines
Begins in December
- Calgary, Alberta
Porter Airlines
Begins in December
- New Orleans
Breeze Airways
Begins February 2027
- Bozeman, Montana
Southwest Airlines
Begins in June 2027

Phoenix Aviation Director Chad Makovsky reported the new routes to the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board in October. He also noted that STARLUX Airlines is increasing its flight frequency to Taipei, Taiwan, from four to five flights weekly.

"It's a good sign that we're seeing growth in the Asian market," Makovsky said.

Makovsky said he was able to talk to the two airlines that fly out of Phoenix to Asia recently, STARLUX and China Airlines.

"They're very pleased with the demand for their services here in our market, so we're happy to see that," he said.



A Southwest Airlines plane takes off from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. (Independent Newsmedia/Mark Carlisle)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Share your thoughts with us. Email **azopinions@iniusa.org**.

Board Member Sandra Ferniza asked if the Breeze and Advanced Air flights would fly out of the recently renovated gates on the lower-level of Terminal 3. Makovsky said they would.

"A much-improved experience over what they had before," Makovsky said.

At the gates, passengers take buses and use a passenger boarding ramp to board an aircraft parked remotely on the airfield.

Imperial, California, is just north of El Centro and about 22 miles north of the Mexicali, Mexico. Santa Rosa, California, is north of the San Francisco Bay area and about 30 miles inland. It is a 55-mile drive south to San Fransisco or Oakland and a 95-mile drive east to Sacramento. Bozeman, Montana, is about 75 miles north of Yellowstone National Park.

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Cheba Hut "Toasted" Subs markets itself as a marijuana-themed restaurant. (Courtesy Cheba Hut)

Cheba Hut sandwich shop opens in south Scottsdale

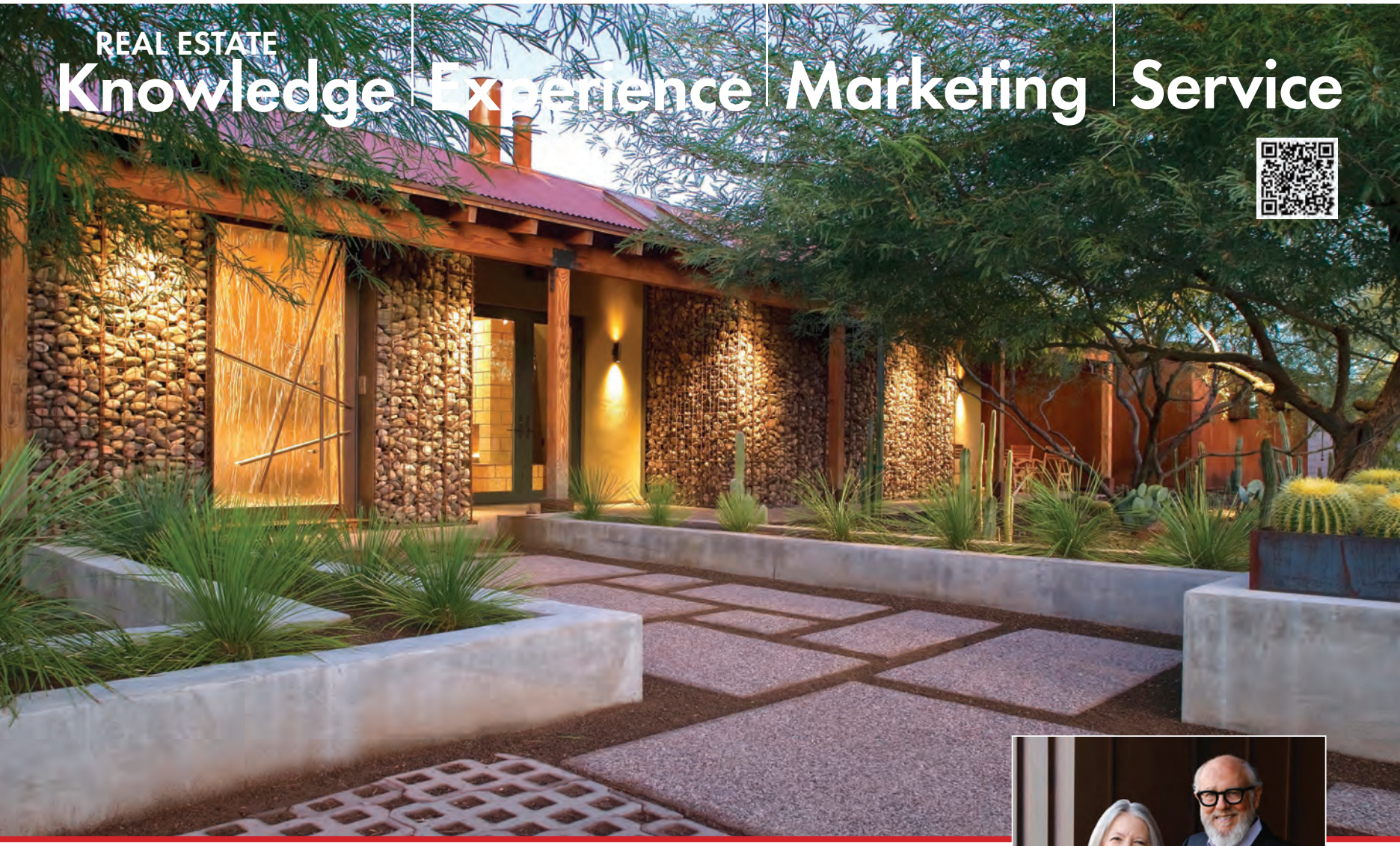
Cheba Hut "Toasted" Subs has opened a store at 2200 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 110.

The location is the Valley's 13th Cheba Hut and the latest milestone for franchise owners Justin and Michelle Lemos, who have opened five shops in less than two years.

They launched in North Scottsdale in February 2025, followed with a site at Loop 101 and Shea Boulevard a month later, additionally taking over Paradise Valley from Cheba Hut headquarters in January and adding Arcadia in June.

The first Cheba Hut opened in 1998 and the company brands itself as a marijuana-themed sandwich "joint." The restaurants also include full-service bar.

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Alarm

• From page 1

If the department's only dispatcher is handling a 911 call or communicating with an officer responding to another emergency, those calls take priority, potentially eliminating the four-minute advantage, he said.

Carney said the greatest administrative burden of the program falls on the department's records staff rather than dispatch.

Dispatchers spend about nine hours per month handling alarm calls, while records employees spend an estimated eight to 20 hours per week on alarm monitoring-related tasks, he said.

Town Chief Financial Officer Leslie DeReche said the program is currently losing money but remains solvent. If the trend continues, however, the fund could eventually go into a deficit.

"This is also an enterprise fund and it's supposed to be self-supporting," DeReche said.

Carney then asked council members for direction on how they would like the town to proceed.

Council Member Julie Pace said she and Council Member Ellen Andeen Keller have advocated for moving alarm monitoring out of the police department and into the private sector for the past four years.

"The resources should be focused on police efforts," Pace said.

Pace said the program takes up too much staff time and that the possibility of dispatchers being unable to immediately respond to an alarm notification creates potential liability for the town. She also noted residents could seek private alarm providers.

> *"This is also an enterprise fund and it's supposed to be self-supporting"*
> **Leslie DeReche**
> **Chief Financial Officer**

Andeen Keller agreed the program should be phased out but emphasized the importance of giving residents enough time to find alternative providers.

Council Member Karen Liepmann said she would like to see the program discontinued within the next six months so it would not be included in the following year's budget.

"Unlike fire services, there are so many good private alarm companies and the administrative complexity of having three entities, it's just too much. We shouldn't be doing it anymore," Liepmann said.

Council Member Anna Thomasson agreed it was time to get rid of the system.

Council Member Scott Moore said he did not support eliminating the program entirely.

He suggested the decline in participation, which has contributed to the program's financial losses, may be partly due to a lack of advertising and public awareness.

Vice Mayor Christine Labelle and Mayor Mark Stanton said if there is not significant public demand for the service and it is not being fully utilized, the town should responsibly transition away from it while allowing current customers time to make other arrangements.

Stanton directed town staff to begin a gradual phaseout of the alarm monitoring program following the council's discussion.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. 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



Paradise Valley Town Council members Ellen Andeen Keller, Julie Pace and Vice Mayor Christine Labelle during a study session after the Sept. 10 council meeting, in Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police host Coffee With A Cop focused on DUI awareness

The Paradise Valley Police Department hosted its monthly Coffee With A Cop event Nov. 4, focusing on impaired driving and vehicle collision awareness.

The event, held at the PVPD Auditorium, featured representatives from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, who discussed Arizona DUI laws, enforcement efforts and common causes of serious crashes.

Attendees also learned about practical steps to prevent collisions and improve road safety, while having an opportunity to meet local officers, ask questions and discuss traffic concerns.

The department hosts the monthly gatherings to encourage conversations between residents and police and provide information on issues affecting the community.

OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

• From page **8**

From September 2024 to September 2025, our state recorded a 17% increase in overdose deaths — twice the national average — according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's an alarming trend.

The main culprits are prescription opioids and illegal opioids like counterfeit pills with fentanyl, which, on average, are killing five Arizonans each day, based on tracking by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Even in non-fatal opioid overdose events, fentanyl is the source, with men between the ages of 25 and 44 at greatest risk.

While it may come as a surprise to some, fentanyl and other substance use overdoses can happen anywhere — from home and the mall to parties and the workplace.

Fortunately, a potentially lifesaving medication called Narcan is helping to reduce the deadly effects of heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid medications.

In 2021, Terros Health created the state's most comprehensive Narcan education and training program to teach people how to reverse the effects of fentanyl and prescription opioid medications in minutes.

Since the program's inception, more than 22,000 Arizonans have completed the free training, and Terros Health has distributed more than 30,000 Narcan samples funded by the state government and the Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers.

While Narcan training isn't the only solution to this emerging crisis, it is a proven way to recognize a potential overdose and save lives.

Free training for sports teams, school districts, companies, nonprofit organizations and a host of other groups are an important line of defense in combating the fentanyl crisis and the larger drug epidemic.

Dr. Vanna Campion

Dr. Vanna Campion is chief medical officer of Terros Health, a Phoenix-based nonprofit healthcare provider serving Arizonans with physical and mental health challenges for nearly 60 years.

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OPPOSE THE FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER PROPOSAL | SUP-26-02

SHOW UP SPEAK UP VOTE NO

NOV 12



PROJECTED PROJECT RENDERING



PROJECTED PROJECT RENDERING

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THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL DECIDE NOVEMBER 12 • VOTE NO! • PROTECT OUR VIEWS!

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The Franciscan Renewal Center seeks a Major Special Use Permit amendment for multiple elevated solar parking canopies beside residential neighborhoods, blocking Camelback and Mummy Mountain views.

WHY RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED

Mountain-view loss, neighborhood character, construction disruption - and the standard this approval may set for future large-scale projects.



SHOW UP. SPEAK UP. VOTE NO.

CONTACT THE TOWN
Brandon McMahon, Planner
480-348-3531 bmcmahon@paradisevalleyaz.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNSEL
neighborhood.counsel@gmail.com

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: PROTECTPARADISEVALLEYVIEWS.COM

OPPOSE THE FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER PROPOSAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

6:00 P.M. | TOWN HALL

6401 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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Dimensions and information: Town of Paradise Valley public hearing materials, SUP-26-02.

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Update from PV Town Councilmember Julie Pace, Preserving Paradise Valley



SPONSORED CONTENT **Thank You to PV Residents for Voting Yes on Propositions 426 and 427!**

Our entire Town Council, except Anna Thomasson, was unanimous to support eliminating residents from individually paying the annual fire fund fee/tax of almost $4 million in this next budget cycle because the passage of Prop. 426 means the Town now has enough room in our expenditure limitation to pay for the fire service costs in 2027.

Passage of Prop. 426 increased the expenditure limitations formula that was established in the 1980s. Our Town's limit does not keep pace with inflation. Simply stated, expenditure limitation means the Town can use the excess revenue the Town receives. Otherwise the Town collects it and has to put it in the bloated reserve fund of over $160 million that the Town is restricted from using.

Legally, the reserve fund cannot be used or returned to residents. It just sits there. Forever. Unless the Town is out of money or going into bankruptcy. There is enough money to pay the Town budget for three years if the Town had no revenue.

Passing Prop 426 means the Town can actually help our residents and increase services now without any tax or increase in costs to any resident. Remember, the Town has no property tax.

Besides paying for fire and first responder needs, the Town now will be able to fund stormwater projects and police department needs, including a physical combat training and multi-use facility including an underground shooting range that has been on the capital improvement projects list to do since 2016, but the collected revenue to do so has been restricted.

And, let's remember and thank our world-quality resorts who are part of the reason we have revenue. The resorts pay a bed tax to the Town, which is a major part of the revenue that the Town collects and is able to use to pay for fire and police. Thanks to our resorts and Town Council's and Staff's financial stewardship, the Town's revenues consistently exceed our expenses year-over-year building a very bloated rainy day fund.

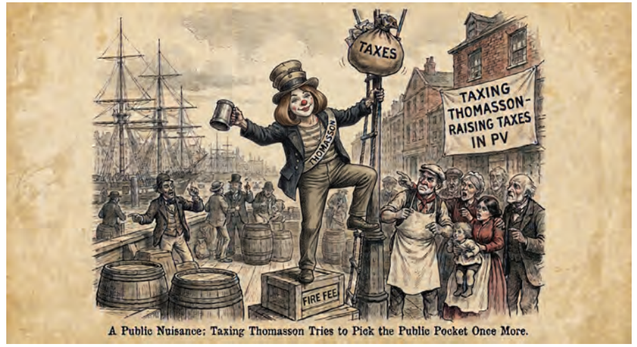
Elimination of Fire Fund Fee/Tax in 2027

We are the first council in the Town's history to be able to eliminate residents from paying the Fire Service Fee in the next budget cycle. The annual fire fund cost is approximately $550 per home and is essentially a tax to PV residents.

The Council is now in position for the Town to pay the annual fire fee/tax because the Council and staff pay attention and manage money well and have worked for the past ten years to pay down the pension fund. Headcount has also declined since Mayor Stanton took office.

I am not in favor of fully funding the fire services fee. I think we should increase fire service fees over time. It is $3 million a year and $30 Million in ten years, why just sit here and give that money away? Let's keep putting money in the reserve fund.

–Anna Taxing Thomasson, 10/22/2026 Council Meeting



A Public Nuisance: Taxing Thomasson Tries to Pick the Public Pocket Once More.

Councilmember Anna Taxing Thomasson is opposed to reducing the annual fire fund fee and instead wants to increase the fire fund fee and brought formulas based on the size of your home:

Wow! The $30 million is what Mayor Stanton and everyone else on Town Council want to give back to the PV residents.

Thomasson is not a fiscal conservative. Thomasson wants to collect and increase the annual fire fund fee and put it in the bloated and restricted Town reserve fund.

Mayor Mark Stanton Continues Great Leadership

Our Town is fortunate to have strong and steady leadership with Mayor Stanton. Mayor Stanton gets along with and has respect of all councilmembers, does not react to personal attacks on him or his family, and shows genuine leadership.

Mayor Stanton has had heavy lifts to preserve the Town we all love and achieved successful results including saving the Post Office based on his relationships at Federal and State levels and leading to eliminate the Fire Fund Fee/Tax, and worked with Council to phase out the Town's alarm system that is operating at a $70,000 deficit and takes too much time away from our dispatchers and officers, along with so much more that impacts our Town.

Under Mayor Mark Stanton, our Town is debt-free and we fully funded the police pension fund.

In giving thanks, we should be grateful that Mayor Mark Stanton is our PV Mayor and thank him for his service.

SUPPORT THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY

There are three buckets you can choose to donate to Support our Phoenix Symphony. Please consider doing so!



Raise the Baton Campaign to Support Your Phoenix Symphony

The Symphony is working to address immediate financial challenges and resume performances. Donation to this fund covers payroll and operational costs to get the Phoenix Symphony Season restarted. Your support can help us move toward that goal. https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/donate/

CRESCENDO Campaign

CRESCENDO is the Campaign for The Phoenix Symphony, supporting the Symphony's long-term future and are donations that are restricted from using for operational/payroll needs and are part of the endowment fund. https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/CRESCENDO/

Planned Giving

If you would like to include the Symphony in your estate plans, information about planned giving is available through the Encore Society. https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/encore/





Donate to Saving the Spire

Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show returns

By Ed Winkler
Special to Independent Newsmedia

The mayor and town council invites all residents, neighbors and friends to take those collector cars out of their garages and drive them over to town hall, 6401 E. Lincoln Drive, on Saturday, Nov. 14.

This is the 21st annual Paradise Valley Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show, a true town tradition.

Paradise Valley residents, young and old, are invited to town hall and meet your neighbors and enjoy these vintage automobiles, trucks and motorcycles plus meet some veterans. The show runs 8:30-11:30 a.m. and is free to the public.

Each car entrant donates a minimum of $50 to the designated charity. This year all proceeds and contributions from the show will be distributed to the The Sentinels of Freedom and the Military Assistance Mission, both nonprofits supporting Arizona military and their families.

To enter a car, go to paradisevalleyaz.gov

Visitors are invited to view the 150-plus vehicles displayed at town hall. All vehicles are pre-1986, and include cars from the Brass Era, Pre-War Classics, Vintage European and American Sports cars, '50s chrome beauties, muscle cars, hot rods, trucks and motorcycles.



The Paradise Valley Car Show Committee is comprised of town staff, police, town council members and town residents who make it possible for the car show to return each year. (Submitted photo/Ed Winkler)

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Rescue

• From page 1

"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."

Hearts 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 Hearts 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 like restaurant gatherings and pickleball give potential adopters a chance to meet them.

Hearts 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 Hearts of Infinity can visit heartofinfinity.org or follow @heartofinfinityrescue on Instagram.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. 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

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.***

Pet selling scams increasing in Arizona

By Joe Ducey
BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

She wanted a Chihuahua puppy and thought she found it online.

The woman paid half of the $425 price, and would pay the other half when she received the dog. It seemed fair. Then she got the texts.

The shipping company needed $800 for a special shipping crate. The insurer demanded $1,000 for in transit pet protection. Overnight puppy nanny care would cost $450. She paid it all with cash and gift cards.

When the woman smelled a scam and wanted a refund, the "breeder" wanted $1,200 more to start that process. She paid it all. There was no puppy. She lost $3,800.

Better Business Bureau ScamTracker shows online scam pet sellers taking thousands from eager buyers excited to bring home a cute pet at a great price.

The American Kennel Club says the majority of online pet sellers are scams.

And the scams seem to work the same way: low advertised price followed by many undisclosed fees.

A Chandler woman says, "they kept asking for more and more money after saying we were done paying for stuff." She lost $2,100.

Many of the complaints point to two big scam warning signs: They're asked to pay with gift cards or cryptocurrency and they are never allowed to see the pet in person.

If you're looking for a pet online:

- Research the breeder/business name and look for accredited breeders at bbb.org.
- Run a general online search for complaints. If you can't find the name or there are no reviews, beware.
- Talk to the seller and see the pet in person. If that's not possible, demand a live video call to do it.
- Do not send money through wire transfer, gift cards or cash apps. Use a credit card for and follow up to make sure it was not misused.
- If you're concerned about a website, conduct a reverse image online search of pet pictures. If they show up on multiple sites, it's likely a fraud.
- And consider a visit to your local animal shelter first.

The American Kennel Club allows you to search for breeds and locations at its marketplace website, marketplace.akc.org.

If you lost money in a scam, contact your local police and file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Report it to BBB at bbb.org/scamtracker.



Online pet scams are increasing around the state. The Better Business Bureau recommends several steps to avoid getting scammed. (Metro Creative Connection)

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The Hondo Rodeo Fest is bringing top riders to the Valley this winter. (Submitted photo/ Hondo Rodeo Fest)

Stars coming to Phoenix to compete at $1M Hondo Rodeo Fest

Hondo Rodeo Fest unveiled the first half of its invitation-only athlete lineup for its return to Chase Field this winter.

The lineup features the sport's top competitors across eight events, all competing for their share of a $1 million purse when the fest arrives in downtown Phoenix Nov. 13-15.

The lineup includes several previous Hondo competitors, including John Crimber, the 2026 Professional Bull Riders world champion, and 2024 Hondo Phoenix bull riding champion. Other notable returning athletes include current Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association tie-down roping world standings leader Riley Webb, who won third overall at both the 2024 and 2025 Hondo Phoenix competitions and has won three consecutive PRCA World Championships, and barrel racing phenom Lisa Lockhart, the Women's Professional Rodeo Association all-time leader in both career and National Finals Rodeo earnings and two-time Hondo Maverick Award winner.

Riders for each event include:

Bareback Riding: Jacob Lees, Jess Pope, Bradlee Miller, Kade Sonnier

Steer Wrestling: Dakota Eldridge, Tucker Allen, Ty Erickson, Kyle Irwin

Team Roping Header: Erich Rogers, Kaleb Driggers, Andrew Ward, Tyler Wade

Team Roping Heeler: Cory Petska, Junior Nogueira, Jake Long, Paul Eaves

Saddle Bronc Riding: Zeke Thurston, Kade Bruno, Sage Newman, Statler Wright

Tie-Down Roping: Shad Mayfield, Riley Webb, Shane Hanchey, Dylan Hancock

Breakaway Roping: Martha Angelone, Hali Williams, Taylor Munsell, Josie Conner

Barrel Racing: Lisa Lockhart, Hailey Kinsel, Emily Beisel, Tricia Aldridge

Bull Riding: John Crimber, Wacey Schalla, Luke Mackey, Kaiden Loud

"With a $1 million purse on the line, every head-to-head match-up will deliver the elite competition and high stakes you can only get at Hondo," James Trawick, CEO of Hondo Rodeo Fest, shared in a press release.

The Phoenix event marks the festival's third consecutive year at Chase Field, where Hondo launched in 2024, and continues the momentum of the festival's expansion into New Orleans and Tampa markets.

For information, visit thehondorodeofest.com.

Sponsored Content

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.

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Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club
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Terry Black's BBQ is making its first foray into the Arizona market with the purchase of 3925 N. Brown Ave., in Old Town Scottsdale. (Submitted photo/LevRose Commercial Real Estate)

Old Town site to become Terry Black's BBQ

Scottsdale-based LevRose Commercial Real Estate has completed the $11.2 million sale of 3925 N. Brown Ave., to Terry Black's BBQ.

LevRose Partners Danielle Davis, Branden Mondragon and Trent McCullough represented the sellers in the transaction, according to a press release.

The acquisition marks the Texas barbecue brand's foray into Arizona market.

Spanning an entire city block, the approximately 0.74-acre property comprises nine parcels and about 10,409 square feet of existing buildings.

"This was a truly unique opportunity to acquire one of Old Town Scottsdale's most recognizable and irreplaceable properties," Davis said. "Its full-block scale, visibility and location made it an exceptionally rare offering. We're excited to see Terry Black's BBQ bring new energy to Scottsdale as it enters the Arizona market."

MORE ONLINE
See more Things To Do news at yourvalley.net



Guests at The Other Art Fair interact with John Paine's huge color-in mural. (Photo courtesy of The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art)

Other Art Fair makes Phoenix debut

The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art, will make its Phoenix debut Nov. 12-15 at On Jackson in the downtown Warehouse District.

The event will feature 65 local and international emerging and mid-career artists selected from more than 300 applicants.

Unlike a traditional gallery setting, participating artists represent their own work and interact directly with visitors and collectors. Original and limited-edition pieces will be available for purchase, including curated collections priced under $500 and $2,000 and a "Blind Date with an Artwork" selection featuring concealed works priced at $150 or less.

The fair also will feature interactive art experiences. Visitors can help color a mural by Sydney illustrator John Paine, receive a quickly drawn portrait from artists Aileen and Jef at the Faux-To Booth or participate in "The Karmacy," an installation in which visitors exchange written messages with strangers.

Local poets The Haikuists will create complimentary typewritten haikus based on prompts from visitors.

Opening Night runs 6-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, with a free drink for the first 500 guests and music from local DJs. The fair continues with a Friday evening session and daytime hours Saturday and Sunday.

For tickets, visit theotherartfair.com/phoenix/tickets.

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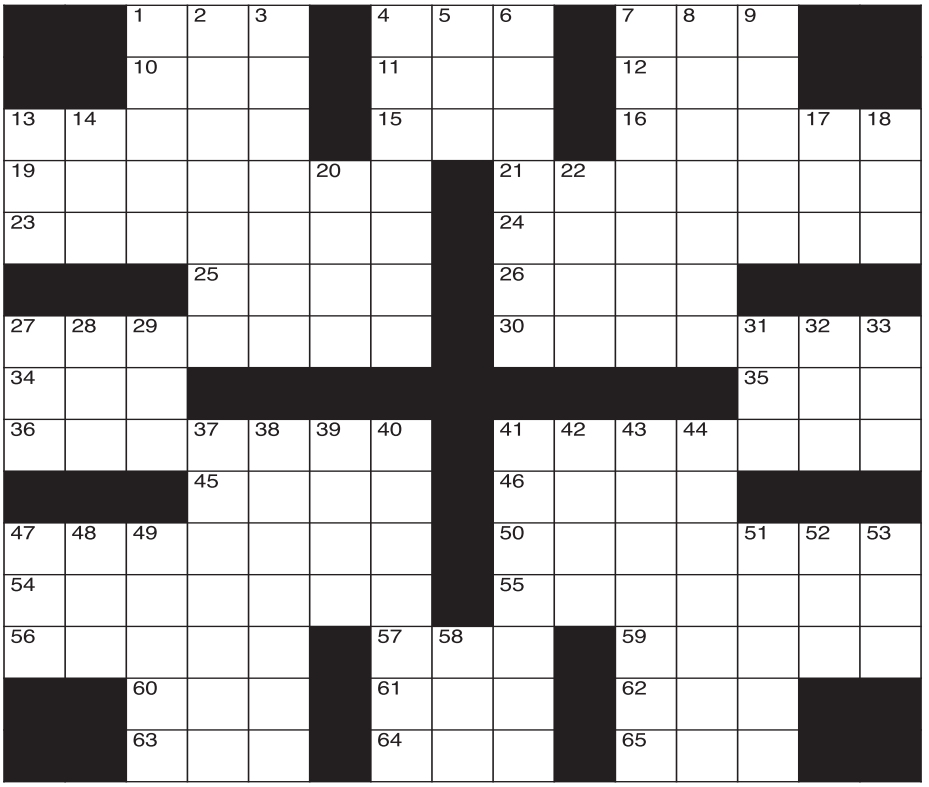


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31



Why your windows get dirty again so fast.

It's the soap.

Soap is built to be sticky — that's how it grabs dirt. Rinse & rinse a soapy dish and it's still slick. **Unger**, who makes the pros' squeegees, says stripping old soap takes three pure-water cleanings. **Tomorrow's dust sticks to what's left.** Arizona dust is roughly 70% quartz, harder than glass — and a squeegee drags it across the pane.

I use ultra-pure DI water and 15–30+ fresh microfiber cloths. **Glass is hand-scrubbed and polished 3×** from 12 inches. No squeegee. No chemical residue.
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