PHOENIX INDEPENDENT
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INSIDE

Return of Symphony? 4



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Phoenix's Nonpartisan Newspaper

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'This is our post'

Phoenix's American Legion Post 41 has served as a haven for Latino veterans for eight decades

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Mexican-American veterans came back to Phoenix after serving in World War II, they were not welcomed with open arms for their service.

Former American Legion Post 41 Cmdr. Loui Olivas said many received a cold reception when they went into an American Legion post.

"Any time you're joining a post, they can't refuse you, but that does not mean they're really going to accept you," Olivas said in a video produced by the city of Phoenix. "These returning veteranos would go to these posts, sit at a bar that could be empty and they'd have to wait 15 minutes to get a beer."

So, they started their own post where they would be accepted. The

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Judge Rebecca Rios marries Tyson Joseph and Alysse Madreno at the Maricopa County Justice Court on Oct. 29, 2026. (Cronkite News/Paige Moore)

TALES FROM THE COURTROOM:

A three-day glimpse into the courthouse wedding experience

By Noah Fuller
CRONKITE NEWS

PHOENIX — As thousands of Valley residents clock out for the day and the Phoenix sun paints the roads ahead, couples begin to arrive at the Downtown Justice Center preparing to take one of the biggest steps of their lives.

Monday through Friday, between 4:30 and 5 p.m., couples enter a courtroom to face a judge. It's a setting that could provoke a range of emotions, depending on whether the judge is issuing a sentence or legally binding two people in marriage.

'Till death do us part'

As the spookiest day of the year loomed, Maricopa County Municipal Court staff hinted toward a busy Halloween-eve with the facility being closed on the holiday for the weekend.

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Board of Supervisors approves new e-bike policy



The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors votes to approve a new ordinance involving electric bicycles during its meeting on Nov. 4, 2026. (Screen capture from YouTube)

By Jeff Wendt
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on Nov. 4 approved an e-bike ordinance to no opposition during its formal meeting.

The ordinance regulates electric bicycles, covering three state-defined classes, electric miniature scooters, and standup scooters.

The three classes of electric bikes are:

- Class 1: Pedal-assisted bikes that can go no faster than 20 miles per hour.
- Class 2: Motorized bikes that don't require pedaling but have a 20 mph maximum speed.
- Class 3: Pedal-assisted bikes that can reach speeds up to 28 mph.

Maricopa County's new ordinance stipulates individuals under the age of 16 are restricted to Class 1 or Class 2 e-bikes. Class 3 e-bike riders must be at least 16 years old, and helmets are required for Class 3 riders under the age of 18.

Class 1 and 2 bikes can ride on a sidewalk or a multi-use path, but must maintain a speed no greater than 15 mph. Class 3 bikes are not allowed on sidewalks, but can use a multi-use path, also maintaining a speed of no greater than 15 mph.

Electric scooters will have the same stipulations as Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes under the new ordinance.

The board did receive a request from Salt River Project to amend the ordinance to include the following:

"This ordinance applies to electric bicycle usage within unincorporated portions of Maricopa County that are outside of federal or Maricopa Parks and Recreation property, but does not apply to their use to aid a person pursuant to the Americans with Disability Act unless otherwise specified."

The board agreed to the amendment and proceeded to the vote.

Prior to the vote, Chairwoman Kate Brophy McGee wanted to thank staff for getting the ordinance together.

"I really wanted to thank all the county agencies, led by Darcy Kober, that worked very hard on making this a viable, enforceable ordinance that I hope can be put to good use and saving particularly young lives," Brophy McGee said.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Medicare And You™

Stay Vigilant This Annual Enrollment: Protect Yourself, Know Your Options, and Never Go It Alone



Jim Schmidt, Medicare And You™

By Jim Schmidt

Trusted & Seasoned Medicare Authority, Advocate, & Advisor

Welcome back! Last month I promised to show you the red flags of Annual Enrollment, and right on schedule, the phones are ringing. The Annual Enrollment Period runs through December 7th, and any change you make takes effect January 1, 2027. This is the season when the wolves in sheep's clothing are busiest, so let's talk about protecting yourself, knowing where you stand, and why you should never have to navigate any of this alone.

The phone call you never asked for.

Here's a rule every Medicare beneficiary should know by heart: if you did not ask for help, and you did not give anyone permission to contact you about your Medicare, no one should be calling you about it. Medicare's marketing rules prohibit agents, brokers, and plans from making unsolicited calls. A stranger calling to say your plan is "changing," that you "qualify for more benefits," or that you need to "verify" your Medicare number is breaking a major Medicare compliance guideline — period. And remember, Medicare itself will never call you out of the blue asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or bank information. Medicare doesn't sell anything.

What to do when they call.

Hang up. You don't owe a scam caller a polite goodbye. Never confirm your Medicare number, date of birth, or any personal information. Write down the date, time, phone number, and company name the caller used. Then turn them in. Report it to 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or to the Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-877-808-2468, a free program that helps stop fraud in its tracks. Every report protects you and your neighbors. And if you ever suspect you've been switched to a plan you didn't choose, call me right away. That can be fixed, and I'll help you do it.

Know what you have before you decide what you want.

The best defense against a high-pressure pitch is knowing exactly what you have. Pull out your ANOC — the Annual Notice of Change I asked you to hold onto last month — and know your premium, copays, out-of-pocket maximum, and whether your doctors and prescriptions are still covered in 2027. Then look at the full picture: what your current plan offers next year, and what competing plans from other carriers offer in your area. A plan waving "shiny add-ons" isn't automatically better than one that quietly covers your doctors and medications at a lower cost.

The right broker in your corner.

That's where a trusted, local broker earns your confidence. A proper review is respectful and unhurried. It starts with your needs, not a sales script. A good broker lays your current coverage side by side with what the market offers for the year ahead, explains the differences in plain English, and tells you honestly when your plan still fits. You should never feel pressured, and you should never be asked to sign anything on the spot.

That's the standard I've held myself to since 2006, because a broker's role is serious. This isn't a magazine subscription or a phone plan. This is your health plan! It deserves honesty, care, and someone who treats it that way.

Not just for Annual Enrollment — all year long.

Too many people learn the hard way that the person who enrolled them in October is nowhere to be found in March. That's not how it should be. Your broker should be there all year — when a claim is denied, when the pharmacy says your drug isn't covered, when you move, lose a spouse, or simply have a question keeping you up at night. Medicare doesn't stop being confusing on December 8th, and your support shouldn't either. If you're on a Medicare Advantage plan and something isn't working come January, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, January 1 through March 31, allows one plan change. You have options.

You are never alone.

Medicare has a way of making good, capable people feel isolated — sitting at the kitchen table with a stack of mail and a ringing phone, unsure who to trust. You don't have to live that way. Simple question or complicated situation, you deserve real answers from someone who knows you, and who will still pick up the phone next year and the year after that.

About the Author:

Jim Schmidt is a trusted Medicare Advocate here in Arizona, since 2006. Jim never charges a fee for those that are in need or reach out to him. Contact Jim any time at 480-296-3900 or JimSchmidt@Medicare-AndYou.Reviews

I do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

Phoenix offers to help eligible residents with SNAP application process

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The One Big Beautiful Bill passed by Congress last year tightened requirements to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. The Associated Press reported that, according to advocates, some who qualify for the help are rejected because they miss deadlines or don't have the needed documentation handy.

The city of Phoenix is trying to help residents who might be in that situation.

Phoenix City Council on Nov. 4 approved $206,294 to fund SNAP Navigators, who will assist residents to find out if they are eligible for SNAP and to fill out the paperwork if they are.

"(This funding is) adding just this really good investment into our efforts to really combat poverty and support our residents who rely on SNAP," said District 7 Councilmember Anna Hernandez during the council meeting. "I think it's very, very critical."

Hernandez thanked the Human Services Department and all city staff who worked on the effort, as well as Mayor Kate Gallego for her leadership in adding the funding.

Hernandez also thanked the contractor the city hired to serve as the snap navigators — The Arizona Community Action Association, doing business as "Wildfire."

"Thank you to Wildfire for your willingness to just be a really strong partner in a moment when so many of our Phoenix residents and families really need a little bit of extra support," Hernandez said.

Wildfire will conduct an education campaign to let people know about SNAP benefits and the help they provide to sign up. They will also provide one-on-one application support, assist clients in navigating online benefits portals and offer advocacy services to help resolve any delays, questions or issues that may arise with local service agencies.

The Associated Press also reported that Arizona had the largest drop in enrollment and was one of several states where state agencies were overwhelmed trying to keep up with the changes.

The One Big Beautiful Bill is projected to cut $186 billion in funding for SNAP benefits during the next 10 years. It also increases the cost to administer the program, and increases states' funding responsibility for those administrative costs from 50% to 75%, according to The Associated Press.



Food boxes are prepared at St. Vincent de Paul in fall 2025 for those in need of help. (Submitted photo/St. Vincent de Paul)

Phoenix Symphony to resume concerts after financial crisis

By Steve Stockmar
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Less than three weeks after a financial crisis halted its season and left 66 musicians temporarily without pay, the Phoenix Symphony is preparing to perform again.

The orchestra announced Nov. 6 that fundraising commitments allowed concerts to resume Nov. 12, following a suspension announced Oct. 20.

The financial emergency forced the symphony to suspend performances after Nov. 1, with the musicians laid off without pay Nov. 2. Their return to the stage begins with Brahms' "Serenade No. 1" at the Musical Instrument Museum on Nov. 12, followed by "Music of the Knights: Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Elton John & Sir Paul McCartney," led by Principal Pops Conductor Stuart Chafetz, Nov. 13-15 at Symphony Hall.

Although the fundraising commitments address the immediate crisis, the symphony faces the task of resolving its longer-term financial problems, the statement notes.

An 11-member New American Symphony Commission, chaired by business leaders John Graham and Don Opatrny, will examine the orchestra's expenses, organizational structure, revenue opportunities and fundraising practices, according to the announcement.

Two musicians selected by Local 586 of the American Federation of Musicians will serve on the commission, which will recommend changes to the symphony's board.

"Getting our musicians on stage again was our top priority," Graham said in the statement. "Now we must build a financial and operating model that allows

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The Phoenix Symphony, pictured here with conductor Paolo Bortolameolli, returned to its performances Nov. 12 with "Brahms' Serenade No. 1" at Musical Instrument Museum. (Photo by Tavits Photography, submitted by Phoenix Symphony)

Symphony
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the symphony to thrive, not simply survive from one season to the next."

The symphony's musicians and development staff are also collaborating on "The Next Movement," a fundraising campaign intended to support performances and improve the organization's financial stability.

The announcement also restores a longstanding holiday partnership with Ballet Arizona. The ballet company confirmed its annual production of "The Nutcracker" will proceed Dec. 11-27 at Symphony Hall, with live accompaniment by the Phoenix Symphony.

"We are thrilled to join our colleagues at The Phoenix Symphony once again," Ballet Arizona Executive Director Jami Kozemczak shared in a separate statement. "It has been such a gift to see how our community has swiftly rallied behind the performing arts."

Visit phoenixsymphony.org for concert schedules, tickets and additional information.

Phoenix Police K-9 Moxie rides off into retirement

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Phoenix Police K-9 Officer Moxie has spent the past five years detecting narcotics and human remains. Now that she's headed to retirement, she has other plans in the works.

"She enjoys a good Frisbee and a good swim, and her favorite treats are whole carrot, red apple, or egg," Mayor Kate Gallego said.

Council honored Moxie on her retirement during the Nov. 4 Phoenix City Council meeting.



Phoenix Police K-9 Officer Moxie, seen with Detective Elizabeth Poole, is retiring after five years on the job. (Submitted by Phoenix District 1 City Council Office)

Moxie's alerts to luggage or parcels with narcotics have led to the seizure of millions of dollars worth of illicit drugs and $1.3 million in cash from the sale of illicit drugs. She has also helped recover three bodies in searches conducted with state agencies.

In 2023, she was the first K-9 in Maricopa County to nationally certify on fentanyl odor detection. The same year she was named the K-9 Officer of the Year from the Arizona Narcotics Officers Association.

Moxie's handler, Detective Elizabeth Poole, plans to retire in December. She has been

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Moxie

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training Moxie since Moxie was 10-months-old.

Poole "has also served our city for an accomplished career," Gallego said on Wednesday.

District 1 Councilmember Ann O'Brien thanked them both and wished them well on their future adventures.

"We can't be the city we are without our officers, and that includes our K-9 officers," O'Brien said.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral honored with street sign

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Phoenix honored the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with a ceremonial street sign Nov. 6.

This year the church celebrated 100 years as a chartered church in Phoenix and 65 years of its annual Greek Festival.

"The Greek community really helped build our city," said Mayor Kate Gallego at the unveiling ceremony. "So many of our earliest entrepreneurs were part of the Greek community. And the Greek community is such an important part of our future, as well."

Father Apostolos Hill said the Greek community and the city of Phoenix have a long and continuing relationship.

"We are part of your community and you of ours," he said. "... Our roots are your roots, and we're very grateful to have all you friends and the support we've always had from the city."

The ceremonial sign is a "sign topper," reading "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral" on



A child unveils the new ceremonial street sign for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix. (Submitted by the City of Phoenix)

the sign post for the intersection of 20th Street and Maryland Avenue, outside of the church at 1973 E. Maryland Ave. The sign was approved by Phoenix City Council during its meeting on Nov. 4.

"We hope it will be a lasting tribute to the cathedral's history and to the community," Gallego said.

State Rep. Stacey Travers was born in Greece and lived more than the first half of her life there. She is "very proud" to be Greek, she said. She lifted up the church as quintessential of the Greek community.

"Wherever you go, church is at the heart of our community," Travers said. "It helps us define who we are, what our moral compass is and builds friendships and community like no other."

District 6 Councilmember Kevin Robinson also remarked on the work the congregation does in the community.

"The impact reaches far beyond the walls of this beautiful cathedral," he said. "Through charitable outreach, support for individuals experiencing homelessness, youth volunteer programs and partnerships with organizations servicing families in need, the congregation has demonstrated what it means to serve the broader community."

Robinson and Gallego also remarked on the beauty of the building. Gallego referred to it as a nickname some have called it: "The Jewel of the Desert."

Robinson said there are many beautiful landmarks in his district, such as the Tovrea Castle, the Desert Botanical Gardens and Arizona Biltmore.

"But the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral is certainly right up there with them," Robinson said.

Council members honor Dolores Huerta

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Two members of Phoenix City Council recently spoke in remembrance of labor activist Dolores Huerta.

Huerta died Oct. 28, at age 96. Members of the Community Services and Education Subcommittee paid tribute to her during the subcommittee meeting later that day.

"It's a huge loss to the movement, it's a huge loss to organizers, just to this world and what she dedicated her life to," said District 7 Councilmember Anna Hernandez.

Both Hernandez and Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, who represents District 8, said they had the chance to meet and speak with Huerta several times.

Hodge Washington said one quote of hers sticks with her.

"'When you choose to give of your time and resources to participate in community work, that is what makes a leader,'" Hodge Washington recounted from Huerta.

She said that was a fitting way to honor Huerta ahead of the subcommittee meeting.

"It's a reminder of what we can accomplish when government and many other partners work together for a shared purpose," Hodge Washington said.

Hernandez said it is Huerta's passion and diligence that most sticks with her.

"I think what always sticks with me from her is just her determination and her grit, and she was always just focused that there's always more to do and the work continues all the time," Hernandez said.

Huerta's advocacy improved conditions for migrant farm workers in the nation's fruit and vegetable fields and persuaded presidents to do more for women's equality and immigrant rights. She created the enduring slogan "Sí, se puede!" in Phoenix. It means "Yes, it can be done!" or "Yes, we can!"

Well into her 90s, Huerta was marching in protests and encouraging activists to keep speaking out about race, poverty and LGBTQ+ and women's rights.

Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers union with Cesar Chavez. Allegations came out earlier this year that Chavez sexually abused girls and women. Huerta said she was among the victims and had kept the secret for decades, worried it would harm her life's work.

Huerta said she was sexually abused in the 1960s by Chavez, leading to the birth of two children who were raised by others.

Chavez's reputation immediately soured after the allegations, leading the city of Phoenix to remove his name from several city-owned properties as well as the Cesar Chavez holiday. The same was done for things named after the labor leader across the country.

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post, at 715 S. Second Ave., became the first American Legion post in Arizona established for Latino veterans. It is the largest post by square footage in the state.

Its impact has stretched beyond veterans to serve the entire Latino community in Phoenix. Over the years, it provided social services to the surrounding community, including a clinic that served more than 100 children.

The building already has historic preservation status in the city of Phoenix, but it is now seeking to be recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Phoenix Historic Preservation Commission voted 5-0 Oct. 19 to approve a Certified Local Government review for the building to be added to the national register.

"A lot of important Phoenix history there in that building," Historic Preservation Officer Helena Ruter told the commission during the meeting.

The post recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. It was charted in 1945 and built in 1946.

In the city's video about the post, Historic Preservation Planner Modesto Melendez explained what the national register is looking for when adding a building.

"It's all about the histories that these buildings hold, the associations of the events that have transpired here, the people that have come through here and the social and political impact that the post has had," Melendez said.

The national historic designation could open the door to tax incentives and future grant funding.

Ruter said the World War II Chicano veterans created Post 41 because they "wanted a greater sense of place for community for them."





Top left: Former American Legion Post 41 Cmdr. Loui Olivas sits inside the post for a city of Phoenix video. (City of Phoenix)
Top right: Santa and Mrs. Claus pose for a photo with children at a 2025 Christmas event at American Legion Post 41 in Phoenix. (American Legion Post 41)
Bottom: Vietnam veterans and Post 41 members Jose Andres Giron and Roman Reyes painted the mural, which is called "Los Veteranos Y Sus Familias," or "The Veterans and their Families." (Submitted by SRP)



Olivas painted a picture of that sense of place. He said he remembered walking through the post with his parents as a small child.

"From time to time, just listening to those conversations, the jokesters of who was better, Army or Air Force or Marines, the discussions and so forth. And the pride that they had, just saying 'This is our post,'" Olivas said in the video.

A mural was added to an exterior wall of the post in 2022. Vietnam veterans and Post 41 members Jose Andres Giron and Roman Reyes painted the mural, which is called "Los Veteranos Y Sus Familias," or "The Veterans and their Families." It depicts generations of Latino veterans, beginning with World War II veterans and includes the families and lives that veterans built upon returning home, including several in graduation caps and gowns.

After a 29-year military career as a colonel with the Arizona Air National Guard, Olivas had a long career in education. Olivas, who holds a doctorate in education from Arizona State University, worked at ASU for 30 years between 1979 and 2009. He first was the assistant director and then director of the Center for Executive Development, then he became the assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and then served as the assistant vice president for Education Partnerships.

In 2023, ASU created the Loui Olivas Chair in Management. The university believes it is the first chair position to be named after a Latino professor at a top-ranked U.S. business school.

Courtroom

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"Sometimes there's a holiday or there's a special number (that makes people want to get married)," Judge Leonore Driggs said. "(On) Feb. 22, 2022, like 82 couples came to get married in this building alone."

Though the number of married couples may not come anywhere near the "2/22/2022" total, on Oct. 30 the walls of the Justice Center quickly began to drip sweat as countless brides and grooms stuffed the halls along with their families.

Most couples came dressed in the traditional white dress, black suit attire. A few made sure to take advantage of Halloween, including Trace Hunt and Carmen Diaz who came decked out in bright cherry red Beetlejuice-inspired costumes.

The couple, who met at an EDM festival roughly three-and-a-half years ago, will have a formal wedding in Mexico in November but wanted to make it official in Arizona beforehand.

"It was first come, first serve and everyone had to kind of rush to get to the first spots, but it's split up between all the judges and this is a busy weekend but they still accommodated (everyone)," Hunt said, surrounded by more than 150 wedding guests for various couples.

They waited eagerly for their turn among the roughly 25 other couples, with the people in the halls cheering sporadically as newlyweds exited their ceremonies.

Joined by a few close family members, Hunt and Diaz smiled cheek-to-cheek as the judge made their marriage official. As they ecstatically trotted out of the courtroom, a different costume-wearing couple made their way into a separate courtroom.



Trace Hunt, Nestor Diaz and Carmen Diaz walk out of the Maricopa County Justice Court courtroom after Trace and Carmen's marriage on Oct. 30, 2026. (Cronkite News/Paige Moore)

In a much darker, serious tone, Amanda Gardner and Jesus Mayorga entered the courtroom dressed as characters from the fictional gothic franchise The Addams Family. Though a majority of couples seemed to be getting married at the courthouse for financial or legal reasons, Gardner and Mayorga said the desire for children was their main motivation.

"We want to start a family, but we want to be married (first)," Gardner reasoned. "We want to start that family (after we've had) time with ourselves and really connect (with one another)."

Just like all of the couples married on this particular day, Gardner and Mayorga were in and out of the court in roughly five minutes as the judges powered through the ceremonies.

As many newlyweds escaped the humid building air, rain poured down on couples who scurried back to their cars, capping off a busy day at the Justice Center.

Quiet day down the aisle

After a brief, airport-esque security screening, soon-to-be newlyweds check in at the front desk and wait for a judge to call their name. Depending on the day, couples could wait from a few minutes to around an hour. On this particular day, Alysse Madreno and Tyson Trejo were the first of a handful of couples summoned into a courtroom on Oct. 29.

Dressed in matching blue jeans and black tops, the high school sweethearts, who began dating roughly 10 years ago, felt that a courthouse wedding was the "easiest option."

"You go across the street, get the marriage license and then come over here and get married on the same day," Madreno said as she and her fiancé headed into the building.

Joined by Trejo's mom and grandma as witnesses, the couple patiently waited for the judge to enter the courtroom. Plans of getting married on a beach are on the horizon, but today's ceremony was necessary for "tax purposes" after the pair recently started a business together.

"Somebody want to get married?" Judge Rebecca Rios joked as she invited the couple to sign their marriage certificate and pay their roughly $100 fee.

After the couple put their pens down, stood up and faced one another, the judge started the ceremony by reading a script that seemed all too familiar to Rios.

Rarely looking down at the words on her page, Rios glanced back-and-forth between the couple's joyous faces as they exchanged rings.

"Now, by the power vested in me by the state of Arizona, I now pronounce you jointly married," Rios said as the newlyweds shared their first kiss as a married couple.

A welcome break

As the bride and groom slowly exited the courtroom, they returned to an empty hallway that was only occupied by a few county employees who were waiting for the couple to leave.

Within a 30-minute span, all of the newlyweds were on their way from the Justice Center to varying locations. Some couples met with large parties at a favorite local restaurant, while others called it a night and beelined it home.

Though the judges are a bit slower to leave the building, the wedding experience can serve as a much needed stress-reducer to cap off their days.

"I do enjoy (doing weddings) because the rest of the day, it's generally evictions or giving people fines in court for violating the law," Judge Leonore Driggs said. "No one's really happy to see me or they're nervous or upset with me, but everybody that comes through the doors to get married loves me. So then it's like, 'Thank you for coming to help my day end better.'"

PHOENIX BUSINESS

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Phoenix Sky Harbor exploring route to Athens, mayor says

By Mark Carlisle
Independent Newsmedia

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport staff are researching whether to add a nonstop flight to Athens, Greece.

That is according to comments by Mayor Kate Gallego on Friday, Nov. 6, during a ceremony to unveil a ceremonial street sign for the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Gallego remarked that State Rep. Stacey Travers, D-Phoenix, who was born in and lived the first half of her life in Greece, was a strong advocate for the entire community but for the Greek community in particular.

She gave Travers' work with Phoenix Aviation staff as an example.

"The airport has a 'Stacey Travers Report' that is trying to build the business case for nonstop service to Athens," Gallego said.

That was met with cheers from the crowd.

"I suspect should that flight happen, many of you will be on the inaugural flight," Gallego added.

Phoenix Sky Harbor currently has 23 international flights. Most are to Canada or Mexico, as well as a flight to London, Paris and Taipei, Taiwan.

The airport has expanded its offerings outside North America recently. Taipei was added as a destination in late 2025, and Munich will be added in August 2027.



Passengers walk through terminal 4 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, in Phoenix. (The Associated Press/Ross D. Franklin)

Phoenix Cracker Barrel features rocking chair art to honor veterans

Independent Newsmedia

A Phoenix Cracker Barrel is one of 10 across the country to feature an art installation of rocking chairs to honor American veterans and military members.

The "Rockers Across America" exhibit will be displayed Nov. 9-30 at the location at 5022 E. Chandler Blvd. in Phoenix. The custom-designed rocking chairs from the Phoenix location and nine other U.S. locations will then be given away to contest winners.

"Rockers Across America" is in partnership with America250, in honor of Veterans Day and Military Families Month.

"The front porch has always been at the heart of the Cracker Barrel experience," stated Sarah Moore, Cracker Barrel chief marketing officer, in a news release. "It's where people slow down, gather together and share stories. Through Rockers Across America, we're turning one of our most iconic symbols into a tribute to veterans and military families, helping ensure their stories are seen, remembered and celebrated."

Cracker Barrel commissioned artists Victoria Barnhill and Emma Gilbert to translate four veteran stories into original works of art featured on the chairs' headrests.

- "The Guardians": Inspired by Barnhill's husband and other veterans in her life, featuring stately oak trees, yellow ribbons and patriotic wildflowers surrounding a Cracker Barrel-inspired home. The oaks symbolize strength, endurance and protection, while the yellow ribbons represent families and communities waiting, remembering and welcoming service members home.
- "The Aviator": Honors Glenn Carr, a 91-year-old Army veteran and longtime Cracker Barrel guest in Braselton, Georgia. Barnhill's design features an eagle and Army aircraft soaring above impressionistic American landscapes.
- "Grandma's Cookin'": Inspired by Gilbert's own family history and her cousin's military service, the design centers on home, togetherness and Southern heritage, weaving patriotic and military details throughout the artwork.
- "Serving Others": Created in honor of Mike Madden, a former Marine and 16-year Cracker Barrel Restaurant District Manager, this design reflects both his military service and the spirit

• See **Rockers** Page **11**

Class

• From page 10

of hospitality he has embodied throughout his career with Cracker Barrel.

Vestar acquires development site

Independent Newsmedia

Vestar has acquired a 20-acre parcel of land in north Phoenix, the group announced Thursday, Nov. 5 in a news release.

The land, bought from the Arizona State Land Department, is at the intersection of Black Mountain Parkway and Deer Valley Road.

The development, known as Black Mountain Village, is a grocery-anchored retail destination representing an investment of more than $50 million in the rapidly growing Desert Ridge community.



A rendering of future development of Black Mountain Village, a development in north Phoenix near Black Mountain Parkway and Deer Valley Road. (Submitted rendering/Vestar)

The new development will feature about 120,000 square feet of retail space, anchored by a 65,000-square-foot grocery store, alongside a mix of restaurants, shops and neighborhood services. Black Mountain Village will also incorporate pedestrian-friendly walkways, shaded outdoor gathering areas and extensive landscaping throughout the project.

"North Phoenix continues to experience tremendous residential growth, yet access to quality grocery, dining and neighborhood retail options remains limited in this area," stated Ryan Ash, senior vice president of asset management for Vestar in the release.

"Black Mountain Village presents an opportunity to address that demand while delivering a thoughtfully designed, high-quality retail amenity that complements the surrounding community. Our goal is to create a place that residents are proud to call their neighborhood shopping center and one that enhances the overall quality of life in Desert Ridge."

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Arizona Dems claim election mandate

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Gov. Katie Hobbs claimed Tuesday that her reelection and the historic victories for Democratic lawmakers is a mandate for them to pursue policies they have been trying to enact for decades.

"For four years, too much of our energy went into stopping bad bills," the governor said during a rally Tuesday at the Capitol organized by her reelection campaign. "Now, we get to pass good ones."

And Hobbs said she believes there is a reason voters not only put her back in office but also provided Democratic majorities in both the House and Senate for the first time in six decades.

"We were given it so that we could deliver," she said. "And families across the state will hold us accountable if we don't do just that."

But Hobbs would not respond to a question of whether what occurred on Nov. 3 was less an endorsement by Arizona voters of Democrats and their ideas and more a mirror of what occurred in dozens of states across the country: a wholesale rejection of President Trump and his policies that led to war in Iran, higher gasoline prices and tariffs that have made many goods less affordable, all of which led to historic losses by Republicans up and down the ballot.

Hobbs was not alone among Democrats in her argument that the results here show voters want what their candidates offered.

"We have the people, we have the mandate and we have the moral obligation to deliver," said Oscar De Los Santos who, by virtue of Democrats now having 37 of the 60 House seats, will be the new speaker. "We are construing this as a mandate for affordability, as a mandate to bring down costs, as a mandate to invest in public schools."



From left, Sen. Priya Sundareshan, Gov. Katie Hobbs, and Rep. Oscar De Los Santos prepare to give speeches Tuesday to supporters at the Capitol talking about the Democratic sweep of state elections. (Capitol Media Services/Howard Fischer)

And Priya Sundareshan, who will lead a 20-member caucus in the 30-member Senate, said that Democrats for years, while in the minority, "stood together and we fought for working families."

"Now, I am ready to lead this Senate majority — Senate supermajority — into a new chapter and turn those priorities into results that Arizonans can feel," she said.

But both acknowledged that, even as Arizonans were turning incumbent Republicans out of office here, they also were approving several measure that were put on the ballot by GOP lawmakers — all over the objections of Democrats.

That included Proposition 318, a prohibition on biological males — based on the sex assigned at birth — from using restrooms and other facilities at schools that are assigned to girls. It carried with nearly 59% of the vote.

Voters also agreed by a 57-33 margin for Proposition 317 to declare drug cartels to be terrorist organizations and require the state Department of Homeland Security to do "everything within its authority to address the threat posed by drug cartels."

Sundareshan acknowledged the results.

"I think those ballot measures may have been of interest to a majority of voters," she said. But the new Senate president said she does not take that as a sign of what Arizonans want Democrats to deliver.

"I'm focused on making sure that what we saw in terms of the majorities — and, in our case, the supermajorities — that reflects what we talked about, the issues we talked about on our campaign trail."

"We will fight to lower costs, to strengthen our public schools, to make health care more affordable," Sundareshan said.

"We will work to protect our water so that the next generation can build a life here," she said. "We will work for an Arizona where everyone feels safe in their community and has a fair opportunity to get ahead."

De Los Santos brushed aside the approval of those ballot measures.

"Arizona is a very complicated state," he said. "It's very simplistic to think of Arizona voters as simply Democrats or Republicans."

And De Los Santos pointed out the votes on other ballot measures.

"The same people who elected Donald Trump enshrined the right to abortion in our state Constitution," he said, referring to Proposition 139 approved in 2024 — the same year Trump won Arizona — by a 3-2 margin.

This year, De Los Santos said, was no different.

"The same people who, at the ballot box, passed some of these DEI bills that you're talking about also rejected attacks on vote by mail," De Los Santos said, noting the defeat this year of Proposition 144. "They also rejected Prop 320, which effectively was a way to rob our public schools from funding," a proposal that would have required districts to spend 60 cents of every dollar on instruction, even if it meant taking away from other areas ranging from administration to the cost of fuel for buses and hiring counselors and nurses.

State abortion lawsuits likely to be abandoned



"It Goes Too Far," the official campaign opposing Arizona's abortion ballot measure, holds a press conference at the state Capitol on Oct. 30, 2024, in Phoenix. When Democrats take control of the state House and Senate, the Legislature is expected to abandon its legal defense of abortion restrictions still on the books. (Associated Press/Sejal Govindarao)

By Kiera Riley
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX – When Democrats take control of the state House and Senate, the Legislature is expected to abandon its legal defense of abortion restrictions still on the books.

Voters enshrined a right to abortion in the state constitution in 2024 after the passage of Proposition 139. But several state laws regulating abortion care remain in effect.

During the past two years, the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona and the Center for Reproductive Rights have sued to strike laws that govern who can provide abortions, when a patient can schedule appointments and what those visits require, whether providers can use telemedicine and why a woman may end a pregnancy.

Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat, has declined to defend the remaining abortion laws in court.

In fact, in one lawsuit, she filed legal papers admitting the challenged laws are unconstitutional.

That left Republican legislative leaders House Speaker Steve Montenegro and Senate President Warren Petersen as the last and only line of defense in two legal challenges.

But that all changes in January, when Democrats take the gavel in both chambers.

"We would certainly be taking an approach that is much more in line with the attorney general's," incoming Senate President Priya Sundareshan said.

Ditto on the House side.

"I can safely say the caucus won't be following in Mr. Montenegro's footsteps," said Robbie Sherwood, communications director for House Democrats about the pending lawsuits.

And if there's no one defending the statutes, the challengers win by default – and the judges handling the cases have to declare the challenged laws unenforceable.

After the passage of Proposition 139, reproductive rights groups vowed to weed out any laws conflicting with the new constitutional right to abortion.

Attorneys for the Center for Reproductive Rights and the ACLU of Arizona first sued in May 2025 and asked the court to toss three sets of laws.

Read more online at yourvalley.net.

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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.

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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.

Phoenix painted purple last month

The city of Phoenix encouraged everyone to join us during October in raising awareness and supporting victims of domestic violence in the 14th annual Paint Phoenix Purple Campaign.

Domestic violence is among the most widespread and dangerous health and safety challenges in our community. Paint Phoenix Purple is a local campaign brought to you by a collaboration of more than 50 community, private and public organizations.

The city of Phoenix remains steadfast in its commitment to raising awareness and supporting survivors of domestic violence. The Phoenix Police Department, together with the Victim Services Division within the city's Family Advocacy Center, provides direct assistance to survivors.

Available services include emergency support, orders of protection, medical examinations and documentation, child protective services, victim advocacy and crisis counseling.

Phoenix provided resources throughout the month and hosted several events.

Betty Guardado
PHOENIX

The author represents District 5 on the Phoenix City Council.

Teachers' union celebrates education election wins

Following landmark midterm election results across the state, the Arizona Education Association is celebrating victories for public education and working families, attributing historic wins to years of organizing by AEA members up and down the state.

This election has produced a monumental shift in state leadership: Voters re-elected pro-public education Gov. Katie Hobbs, Attorney General Kris Mayes and Secretary of State Adrian Fontes, while flipping the Arizona Legislature to a pro-public education majority. Projections also show pro-public education candidate Nick Mansour is leading for state treasurer and educator Teresa Leyba Ruiz is leading for superintendent of public instruction.

There are also big wins for education at the local level. Across the state, pro-public education candidates are making gains on school boards. One exciting example is Paradise Valley, where voters elected former Paradise Valley Education Association member, AEA member and current AEA retired member Rick Ross to the school board.

This historic shift did not happen by accident, and it did not happen overnight. This is the direct result of years of hard work and organizing from our educators, our union siblings and our communities.

However, our work is not done. Today is when we start building a brighter future for our children and our educators. Our work made this outcome possible, and we are ready to turn that momentum into real results for public schools.

Marisol Garcia
PHOENIX

Marisol Garcia is president of the Arizona Education Association, a Phoenix-based labor union that represents more than 24,000 public school employees across the state.

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**.

Physical therapist urges Congress to pass SAFE Act

Nobody wants to see an older parent, grandparent or loved one suffer the aftermath of a serious fall. Yet for too many families in Arizona, falls happen every day. A simple misstep on a driveway, a loss of balance in the kitchen or a stumble while walking outside can quickly lead to hospitalization, long-term disability and a loss of independence.

Nationwide, falls are the leading cause of injury and injury-related deaths for adults 65 and older. And in the Grand Canyon State — where our older-adult population continues to grow rapidly — almost 30% fall every year.

Thankfully, physical therapists are falls prevention experts who are uniquely trained to evaluate fall risk and intervene before an injury occurs. Far too often, however, patients only reach us after a fall has happened.

That is where the Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act comes in. This legislation, currently being considered in Washington, D.C., offers a critical step forward by enabling Medicare beneficiaries to receive annual, no-cost falls risk assessments from physical and occupational therapists — the falls-prevention experts.

Now is the time for Congress to act and ensure that older adults in Arizona, and across the country, have access to preventive care to avoid life-altering falls before they happen. That's why I am grateful that Sen. Mark Kelly recently sent staff to visit my clinic in Phoenix to learn more

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Opinions

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about how lawmakers can help improve patient care.

Now, I urge Sen. Kelly and his colleagues to swiftly support and pass the SAFE Act.

Chad Waits, PT, DPT
PHOENIX

The author is a physical therapist practicing in the Valley.

Small biz needs scam protection, not burdens

I run my own photography studio. Most customers pay through peer-to-peer apps. Money lands in seconds, and on Zelle, nobody pays fees, so I keep more in my pocket. My business isn't unique. Arizona has more than 700,000 small businesses, many running on payment apps, the new cash.

So, when Washington, D.C., talks about regulating payment apps, we pay attention. Bad rules hit businesses like ours.

No one knows scams better than small businesses facing fake invoices, phony vendor emails and bogus utility calls. I want criminals stopped without losing the tools my business runs on.

In D.C. and some states, lawmakers and attorneys general want banks or platforms to repay tricked users. That doesn't stop scams, it just shifts the criminal burden.

Platforms forced to cover every loss will treat every payment as risky. They'll hold funds longer, add fees to free services and impose hoops on buyers and sellers. Some businesses may drop the apps, burdening consumers.

A broad refund rule also invites claw backs unrelated to scams. A customer unhappy with their photos could skip me and report fraud for an automatic refund. I'd eat that loss.

Criminals use crypto, gift cards, wire transfers and fake checks. Targeting apps ignores those and steers crooks to apps, where others pay for their crimes.

Real solutions target criminals, which Arizona cannot do alone since most scams originate overseas. The next Congress should make fighting scams a real priority: fund law enforcement to catch scammers, pressure foreign governments to shut down scam operations and revive the bipartisan TRAPS Act to coordinate federal agencies and industry.

Arizona's small businesses want scams stopped as much as anyone, but we need solutions targeting crooks, not the tools we count on to get paid.

Lorena Figueroa
AVONDALE

Reader ponders north Peoria roadway projects

The El Mirage Road extension north from Loop 303 to Jomax Road has been a top priority to ease traffic congestion in north Peoria.

Certainly, the Happy Valley Parkway and Vistancia Boulevard intersection is in need of change to accommodate rush-hour traffic. To do this with minimal inconvenience and added traffic elsewhere it seems to me the original plan to extend El Mirage Road made a great deal of sense.

If the El Mirage extension were completed first, the intersection at Happy Valley could be completely closed with minimal disruption. In addition, the construction work could be done in a more efficient and safer manner with traffic completely closed.

Maybe the extension could be completed in two phases. First from Loop 303 to Happy Valley and then the section from Happy Valley to Jomax.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Oct. 21 public meeting on the project, so I don't know if any of this has been discussed.

I have been very happy with the planning that has been done in north Peoria over the years, excluding the Amkor plan for Vistancia. It seems the city was planning for growth appropriately. Lately, I'm not sure that same diligence has been used.

I hope we don't use haphazard planning and end up with a traffic situation like the one at U.S. 60 and Loop 303.

Arwin Roe
PEORIA

Truck noise increasingly a problem on Camelback

I live on Escondido Drive off North Village Parkway near Camelback Road between Millennium High School and Jackie Robinson Little League Field. I work from home and around noon there are so many rock trucks, many of which engine-brake even though they are not allowed to. The sound is so loud it hurts my children's eardrums.

My children's ears already hurt enough as it is, and the trucks sometimes give me a headache when I hear the super loud dual stackers. I swear it has to be close to 100 decibels. When I hear them coming, I usually try and go inside to help reduce the noise.

I really wish the rock trucks would take El Mirage Road to Northern Parkway or Northern Avenue. There are very few homes by Northern Avenue and they are very large lots pushed back south away from the road. Plus, there is only the Wildlife World Zoo, Falcon Dunes Golf Course and Desert Diamond Casino.

It's really a bummer that Litchfield Park and others have to spend all this money to rebuild Camelback just because the rock trucks won't use another nearby less-populated road.

This money could be spent on new parks, etc.

Senate Bill 1097 really has been a disaster for local families living in Litchfield.

Kathryn Davis
LITCHFIELD PARK

Horrified at Dysart's minimum grade for sports

I honestly read in disbelief that the pass-to-play athletic-eligibility floor at Dysart Unified School District is a D grade.

Is that really what we want to communicate to our children and students?

We as a community are doing them a terrible disservice for having such a low bar for academic achievement. Athletics should be complimentary adjuncts to an academic program. Parents, teachers and coaches and the community have an obligation to instill an atmosphere that sets a premium value on education.

This should begin in elementary school. Children need our support to guide them and intervene early if there is a need for additional support in an area of study.

The achievement bar needs to rise. It is imperative that the adults in our DUSD model and set expectations that reflect the capabilities of these young minds. Students can reach and succeed if we spend the time to identify and communicate priorities and expectations.

Participating in a high school sport is a wonderful outlet and a huge motivator that enriches a student's educational experience. We should expect students to work hard at learning in the classrooms to gain basic competencies.

A "C" grade seems reasonable. Children are in school to receive an education. Sometimes that seems to be forgotten.

Susan Wagemann
SURPRISE

SPORTS

MORE ONLINE
See more sports news at yourvalley.net.

Something old, something new

Bryce Ford, Paulius Murauskas find places on revamped ASU men's basketball team

By Caleb Craig
CRONKITE NEWS

TEMPE — Before senior forward Paulius Murauskas even played a game for Arizona State, his teammates voted him a team captain.

On Friday, Murauskas scored 33 points against Northern Colorado, the most he has scored in a college game. After the 90-63 win, he rang the victory bell at Desert Financial Arena.

"We're going to flip this thing and make this place great again," Murauskas said after the game, referring to the announced crowd of 5,295 in an arena that seats 14,198.

Murauskas added 22 points in an 85-63 win against Hofstra on Tuesday, but he can't lead alone.

He won't have to.

While Murauskas followed coach Randy Bennett to Tempe from Saint Mary's, senior guard Bryce Ford chose to stay after former coach Bobby Hurley left.

Together, they are hoping to lead a resurgence in the revamped program.

With just two players returning from last season's ASU squad, Bennett had a captain in Murauskas who knew what the coach expected from players in his program, and

• See **Water** Page **14**



Forward Paulius Murauskas followed new Arizona State basketball coach Randy Bennett to Tempe from Saint Mary's after experiencing significant development under Bennett's staff at Saint Mary's. (Cronkite News/Richie Meno)

Cardinals place QB Gardner Minshew on injured reserve, opening the door for rookie



By David Brandt
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Cardinals placed quarterback Gardner Minshew on injured reserve on Tuesday because of an elbow injury, opening the door for rookie Carson Beck to move into a starting role.

The Cardinals (3-6) also placed receiver Michael Wilson (neck) on injured reserve. Minshew and Wilson were both hurt during the Cardinals' 17-3 loss to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

Minshew completed 21 of 30 passes for 166 yards on Sunday, one week after taking over for the ineffective Jacoby Brissett and leading the Cardinals to a 14-point comeback win over the Dallas Cowboys. Minshew was selected as the starter in the aftermath of that game and Brissett was traded to the Baltimore Ravens.

Now that Minshew is hurt, the Cardinals are down to Beck, who looked impressive during the preseason but hasn't played in a regular-season game. Arizona also announced that it signed 40-year-old quarterback Josh Johnson from the Cincinnati Bengals' practice squad.

The 24-year-old Beck was a third-round pick out of Miami, where he led the Hurricanes to the title game in his senior season before losing to Indiana.

Arizona will try to snap its 10-game home losing streak on

• See **Water** Page **14**

Cardinals quarterback Carson Beck warms up during a game against the Seattle Seahawks in Seattle, Sunday, Nov. 8. (The Associated Press/Kevin Ng)

Brophy three-peats as Division I state champions

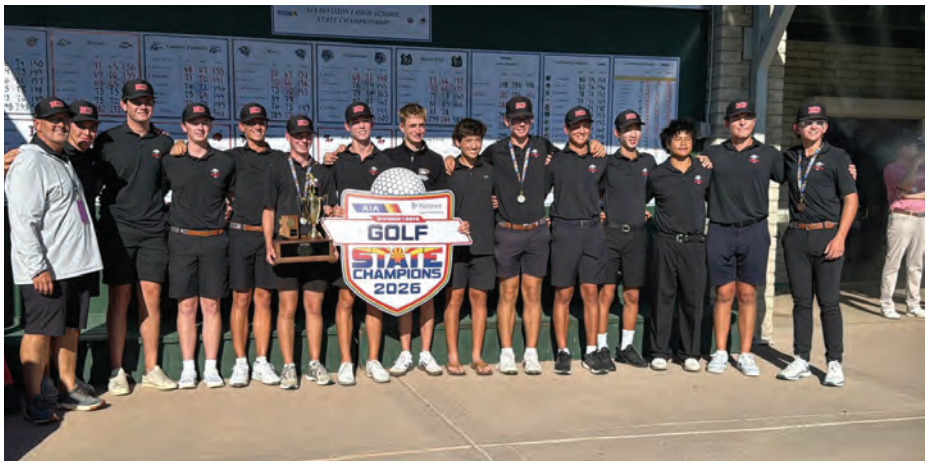
By Brittany Bowyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For the third consecutive year, the Brophy Broncos claimed the Division I Boys Golf State Championship.

It was a special moment for Brophy as it marked the program's 12th title, putting them in the lead for the most in state history.

"It means everything," senior Asher Nelson said. "All my best buddies are on this team. All my favorite memories are with this team, so being able to make history with these guys is just a blessing."

The Broncos shot 22-under-par 554 over the course of the two-day competition, finishing in front of second-place Tucson Catalina Foothills by seven strokes.



Brophy Prep wins the 2026 Division I boys golf state championship Nov. 5. (Independent Newsmedia/Brittany Bowyer)

"I'm grateful that I get to coach these kids and be a part of the Brophy program," Coach Jon Shores said. "We've got obviously a lot of great players, and a lot of good families that commit to what we're doing ... I'm thrilled for the kids, thrilled for our school. It's just a special accomplishment."

Things were neck and neck going into the second day of competition, with Brophy only leading by one stroke. Shores said his message to the boys was just to be confident in what they've done all year to reach this point.

"They had a lot of confidence going into this tournament because we've played really well," Shores said. "We didn't particularly play our best (on the first day), but we obviously put ourselves in the position to be successful today. And I told them to just play free and not be bogged down by the worry of messing up, and they did that today."

Despite competition being close, the Broncos were able to

• See **Water** Page **14**

Xavier Golf claims fourth consecutive title

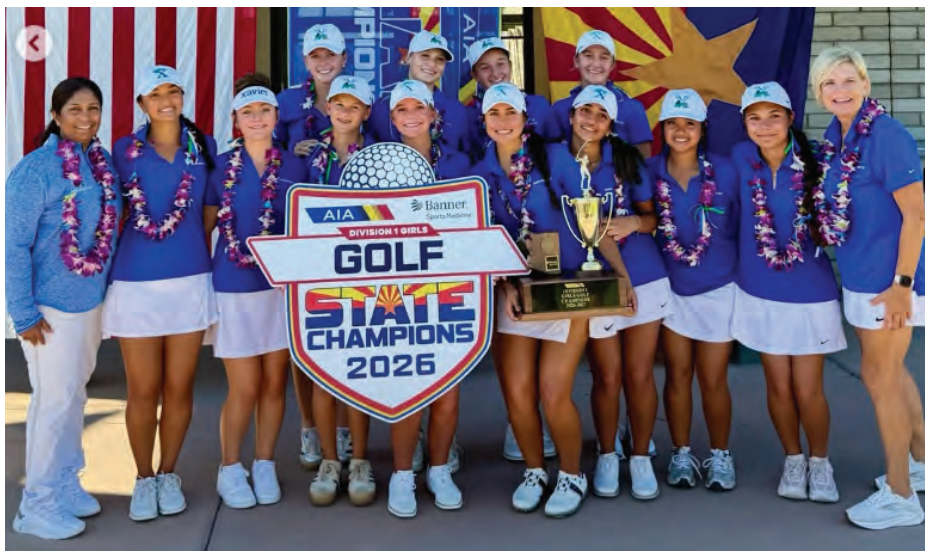
By Brittany Bowyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For the fourth consecutive year, the Xavier Gators Golf Team was able to claim the Girls Division I Golf State Championship title.

The Gators shot 19-over-par 595 over the course of two days, defeating second-place Pinnacle by four strokes.

"I'm kind of shocked, but at the same time, I'm super happy and thrilled for the girls," said Xavier Coach Tui Selvaratnam.

For the Gators, it was an exciting afternoon, as senior Alexis Lamadrid finished first in the individual competition for the third consecutive year. She had an outstanding competition, shooting eight-under-par 136 overall, finishing three strokes ahead of Liberty junior Natalia Fox.



Xavier Girls Golf wrapped up the 2026 season by bringing home its fourth consecutive state championship, putting a bow on top of a successful season for the Gators. (Submitted photo/Xavier Golf Instagram)

"It definitely means everything," Lamadrid said. "To win individually, but also as a team ... I'm happy with my game and the way I held it together for 36 holes."

"I'm super proud of them, I'm just happy for each and every one of them, especially Alexis for winning her third straight," Selvaratnam said.

In Xavier's school history, there have been a small number of individual golfers who have won three consecutive titles, putting Lamadrid in select company, Selvaratnam said.

As soon as Lamadrid's final stroke was complete, her teammates rushed her on the course cheering for her finish. It was a moment she says she'll never forget.

"It definitely snapped me back into reality, the moment that I saw them coming down the hill," Lamadrid said. "It was just so amazing, I really kept myself concentrated on the 18, and I was really in the zone. Especially when that ball went, it was kind of a surreal moment, and seeing them come down kind of just made it seem

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ASU

• From page 16

a guard in Ford who had already played a season in the Big 12.

Arizona State hired Bennett in March after the Sun Devils went three straight seasons without an NCAA Tournament appearance under Hurley. Dramatic change is already evident. Four transfers started against Northern Colorado, including Murauskas and his former Saint Mary's teammate, Dillan Shaw, who was also in the starting lineup against Hofstra.

Murauskas started his college career in Tucson, but averaged only five minutes a game as a freshman at Arizona. He started every game in his first season at Saint Mary's then led the Gaels in scoring the next at 18.4 points per game. Two assistants who coached him there also joined Bennett in Tempe. It was enough to convince Murauskas to join them at ASU.

"After not playing my first year, they helped me get through that and I trust them to keep making me a better player," Murauskas said when ASU announced his signing in July.

Bennett said Murauskas was one of the first players his staff pursued after arriving at ASU, and he credited Murauskas' commitment with helping the staff bring in other players.

Meanwhile, Ford started 20 of the 27 games he played in last season under Hurley, his first at ASU after transferring from Toledo. He decided to stay put after meeting Bennett.

The Scottsdale native played two seasons for the Rockets after starring at Pinnacle High School in Phoenix before transferring to ASU, where his older sister Alyse played volleyball.

Brophy

• From page 17

stay calm to close out day two and work their way out to a big lead.

"What helped us was we played the front end really, really good," Shores said. "It gave us a cushion on the back and allowed us to play a little more free on the back."

In the individual competition, Brophy had three golfers finish in the top 10. Senior Jack Langbein, who is committed to Grand Canyon University, finished in ninth place by shooting a five-under-par 139.

Another senior, Texas A&M commit Evan Tyree, shot eight-under-par 136 to finish in fourth place.

Nelson, an Oklahoma State commit, won the individual competition by shooting a 10-under-par 134 to finish in first place. Nelson edged out the second-place finisher by one stroke to claim gold.

"It feels awesome," Nelson said. "There's really nowhere else I'd rather get my first individual win for high school. This is just the best day, it's awesome."

Nelson said he feels his putting was definitely the factor that pushed him over the edge to victory.

"I didn't really miss anything from under 8 feet on both days," Nelson said. "That was definitely my biggest strength."

He was able to clinch the victory on the 17th hole, but he was unaware of where he stood going into hole 18.

Brophy's state championship team included juniors Hank Miller and Luke Staples, who will be essential to building next year's team.

Briefs

• From page 16

Sunday when it hosts the Los Angeles Rams.

Cardinals lose WR Michael Wilson for the season because of a neck fracture

TEMPE (AP) — Cardinals wide receiver Michael Wilson is out for the season due to a neck fracture suffered against the Seattle Seahawks.

Coach Mike LaFleur announced Monday that the injury occurred on the fourth play of the game, but Wilson played through it. Wilson had six catches for 60 yards in the 17-3 loss. Despite playing with two broken ribs, Wilson is second on the team with 546 receiving yards and two touchdowns.

The Cardinals have lost their top three receivers, with Kendrick Bourne out for the year and Marvin Harrison Jr. traded to the Texans.

D-backs' outfielder Corbin Carroll has surgery on right elbow, should be ready for spring training

PHOENIX (AP) — Diamondbacks outfielder Corbin Carroll had surgery this week to remove loose bodies in his right elbow and should be ready for the scheduled start of spring training in February.

The team confirmed the surgery on Friday. A full recovery is expected to take about eight weeks.

Xavier

• From page 17

more real. It's definitely something I'll never forget and a really special memory."

Xavier needed Lamadrid to be at the top of her game, given the changes they had to make to their lineup just before the start of the State Championship match.

"I put the lineup in on Friday, and we had a very solid team because that was my top five throughout the whole year," Selvaratnam said. "(Monday) morning I had to take out number two for a back injury, and so I was like, 'OK, it is what it is.' I'm just proud of how everybody else stepped up, especially my number six, who was just put into the number two spot just like that."

Aside from Madrid, other members of the Xavier golf team include sophomores Gabrielle Doss, Addison Taylor and Jaina Bhatnager, along with freshman Claire Brooks.

Taylor finished in seventh overall, shooting four-over-par 148, while Brooks finished in fourth, shooting one-over-par 145.

Selvaratnam said she believes the key to the program's sustained success is the culture they've created and carried on throughout the years. Throughout her 21 years with the program, along with former Head Coach and athletic director Sister Lynn's multiple decades of serving, the Gators have been able to create and maintain unique environment for the girls, which has propelled them to the top.

Brittany Bowyer is a Report for America corps member, covering sports for Independent Newsmedia in Arizona. Report for America places talented journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and regions.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Black Theatre Troupe brings 'Black Nativity' to Phoenix stage

Holiday production features gospel music, dance

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Black Theatre Troupe will celebrate the holiday season with Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity," running Nov. 27-Dec. 6 at the Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center in downtown Phoenix.

The musical retells the birth of Jesus through Hughes' poetry, gospel music and dance, drawing on the traditions of the Black church.

Directed by Walter Belcher, the production features four-time Emmy Award winner and former 12News anchor Kim Covington as one of two alternating narrators.



(Show poster submitted by Black Theatre Troupe)

She shares the role with Charity Evans, an elder at Greater Hope Christian Church. Cast members include Aria Robinson as the Angel, Cherish Hayes as Mary, and Alexander Patrick-Rolando as Joseph.

Patrick-Rolando provides choreography, while Brenda Hankins serves as musical director. The second act features a celebration of gospel music, with vocal performances and dance.

First performed Off-Broadway in 1961, "Black Nativity" has become a holiday tradition combining Hughes' poetry with African American musical and cultural expression.

IF YOU GO

What: Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity"

When: Nov. 27-Dec. 6

Where: Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center, 1333 E. Washington St., Phoenix

More Information: blacktheatretroupe.org/nativity

Grass League Championship brings golf, concerts

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Grass League Championship will bring three days of professional golf, live music and entertainment to Grass Clippings Rolling Hills in Tempe from Dec. 3-5.

The season-ending event will feature all 11 Grass League franchises competing for the league championship and the Par 3 Cup, its season-long team title.

The competition features 88 players representing 44 two-person teams playing 54 holes in a scramble format. The final round will air live on Golf Channel 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, with the leaders finishing under the lights. The championship carries 5,000 points toward the Par 3 Cup standings, the most of any event this season.

Activities begin Thursday, Dec. 3, with an official practice round and a free Creator Showcase featuring golf personalities and celebrities playing under the lights beginning at sunset. Friday, Dec. 4, features championship golf and the $40,000 Ace Race, a par 3 shootout involving 22 content creators and 22 Grass League players, with a $1 million hole-in-one opportunity.

Concerts follow the golf action Friday and Saturday. Fitz and The Tantrums headline Friday, Dec. 4, while electronic music duo Louis The Child performs Saturday, Dec. 5, following the championship's final round.

Both concerts are included with paid admission, along with opening acts.

IF YOU GO

What: Grass League Championship

Where: Grass Clippings Rolling Hills, 1415 N. Mill Ave., Tempe

Admission: General admission starts at $21 for one day or $32 for Friday and Saturday combined, including fees. VIP packages available.

Info: grassleague.com

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

RODEO, MUSIC

ABOUT: Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15 at Chase Field, 401 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix
INFO: The Hondo Rodeo Fest combines professional rodeo competition with concerts by Tim McGraw, Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton, Turnpike Troubadours, Parker McCollum and Lynyrd Skynyrd.
WEB: hondorodeofest.com

MUSICAL KNIGHTS

ABOUT: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 13-14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix
INFO: The Phoenix Symphony presents "Music of the Knights," featuring music associated with Andrew Lloyd Webber, Elton John and Paul McCartney.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

FESTIVAL OF ARTS

ABOUT: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix
INFO: The free Festival of the Arts features live performances, artist demonstrations, about 30 artisan and vendor booths and children's activities.
WEB: herbergertheater.org

PIZZA FESTIVAL

ABOUT: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. Third St., Phoenix



Las Noches de las Luminarias, the annual celebration at Desert Botanical Garden, starts Dec. 4. (Submitted by Desert Botanical Garden)

INFO: Phoenix Pizza Festival features local pizza makers, live music, craft beer, lawn games, vendors and a children's zone.
WEB: phxpizzafest.com

STAGE AND SCREEN

ABOUT: Saturday, Nov. 14 at Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum, 3901 W. Pioneer Road, Phoenix
INFO: The inaugural Phoenix Stage & Screen Festival features independent films, live theater, outdoor music, local artists, vendors and food.
WEB: phxssfest.org

'MARY POPPINS'

ABOUT: Opens 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18 at The Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
INFO: The Phoenix Theatre Company opens its production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins." Performances continue through Jan. 3.
WEB: phoenixtheatre.com

PORTAL FEST

ABOUT: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at S'edav Va'aki Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix
INFO: The free eighth annual Portal Fest features Indigenous music, dance, storytelling, artist demonstrations and programming about the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People.
WEB: phoenix.gov

FAIRE AT SQUARE

ABOUT: Saturday, Nov. 21 at The Square PHX, 113 N. Sixth St., Phoenix
INFO: The free Faire @ The Square is a family-friendly festival and winter artisan market at Heritage & Science Park in downtown Phoenix.
WEB: thesquarephx.org

CULINARY JOURNEY

ABOUT: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix
INFO: "Echoes of the Southern Kingdoms: A Culinary Journey" pairs a five-course dinner inspired by ancient China with access to MIM's "Unearthed Musical Masterpieces" exhibition. Tickets are $150.
WEB: mim.org

• See **To Do** Page **21**

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 Mesa Independent will host its Expo at 9 a.m. Fri., Nov. 13 at Mesa Market Place Swap Meet. Individuals wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email us: **AZAds@iniusa.org.**

To Do

• From page 20

WOMEN'S GUILD HOLIDAY SALE

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 19028 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West
INFO: The Our Lady of Lourdes Women's Guild will host a bake sale, estate jewelry sale and card sale, offering a variety of items for shoppers. Founded in 1979, the guild supports the parish and local charitable organizations through fundraising and community service. During 40 years of service, the Guild contributed more than $492,000 to the parish and over $165,000 to more than 32 various charitable and community groups.
WEB: ololscw.org

'MURDER, SHE WROTE'

ABOUT: 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 28-29 at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix
INFO: "Solve-Along-A-Murder-She-Wrote" combines an interactive screening of the television mystery series with comedy, games, prizes and audience participation.
WEB: herbergertheater.org

HEY ARNOLD! LIVE

ABOUT: 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 at The Van Buren, 401 W. Van Buren St., Phoenix
INFO: Composer Jim Lang and the PS 118 All Stars perform music from Nickelodeon's "Hey Arnold!" live.
WEB: thevanburenphx.com

ZOOLIGHTS

ABOUT: 5:30-10:30 p.m. nightly, Dec. 1-31, at Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
INFO: The Phoenix Zoo's annual holiday celebration features millions of lights, illuminated animal displays and a floating Christmas tree light show. A sensory-friendly evening with reduced sound and flashing lights is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8, with separate tickets required.
WEB: phoenixzoo.org/events/zoolights

'DIE HARD: A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

ABOUT: Select performances Dec. 3-30 at Playhouse on the Park, 1850 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
INFO: All Puppet Players combines the action movie "Die Hard" with Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in an irreverent, adult-oriented puppet production. The show is recommended for audiences ages 17 and older.
WEB: allpuppetplayers.com

LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS

ABOUT: 5-9:30 p.m. Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 16-23 and 26-31 at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
INFO: Thousands of luminarias illuminate the Garden's desert trails, accompanied by holiday lighting, live entertainment and seasonal displays. The event also features the floral art installation "Super Bloom." Tickets required.
WEB: dbg.org

APS ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE

ABOUT: 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, beginning at Central and Montebello avenues and ending at Seventh Street and Indian School Road, Phoenix
INFO: Phoenix's 39th annual Electric Light Parade features illuminated floats, holiday displays and entries from community organizations and businesses. Spectators should anticipate road closures along the parade route.
WEB: phoenix.gov

PHOESTIVUS HOLIDAY MARKET

ABOUT: 4-10 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 11 and 18, at Arizona Center, 455 N. Third St., Phoenix
INFO: The downtown holiday market features more than 175 local vendors selling handmade gifts, artwork, food and other merchandise, along with live music and entertainment. Admission is free.
WEB: phoestivus.com

'THE ARIZONA NUTCRACKER'

ABOUT: 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at The Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., Phoenix
INFO: Dance Studio 111 presents a holiday ballet featuring young dancers, festive costumes and traditional Nutcracker characters. Afternoon performances include indoor snowfall, a singalong and opportunities to meet Santa and cast members afterward.
WEB: themadison.org/az-nutcracker

HOLIDAYS AT THE HEARD

ABOUT: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Tuesday, Dec. 26-29, at Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix
INFO: The museum's holiday celebration features Indigenous dance performances, live music, art activities and outdoor art walks. Scheduled performers include the Pee-Posh Bird Singers and Dancers, Yellowhouse Dancers and Yellow Bird Productions. Outdoor holiday activities are free; regular admission applies to museum galleries.
WEB: heard.org/event/holidays

JIM BRICKMAN: A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

ABOUT: 6 and 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 29-31, at Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix
INFO: Grammy-nominated pianist Jim Brickman performs seasonal favorites and original songs, including "The Gift," "Sending You a Little Christmas" and "Angel Eyes." Tickets range from $49.50 to $69.50.
WEB: mim.org

COMICS & FUN

ZAP! WOW! CHECK OUT OUR DIGITAL PUZZLES ONLINE

JUMBLE

By Tribune Content Agency

JUMBLE®

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

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

AMWNO

ILIVG

EOTSNF

LOHWLO



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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

" "

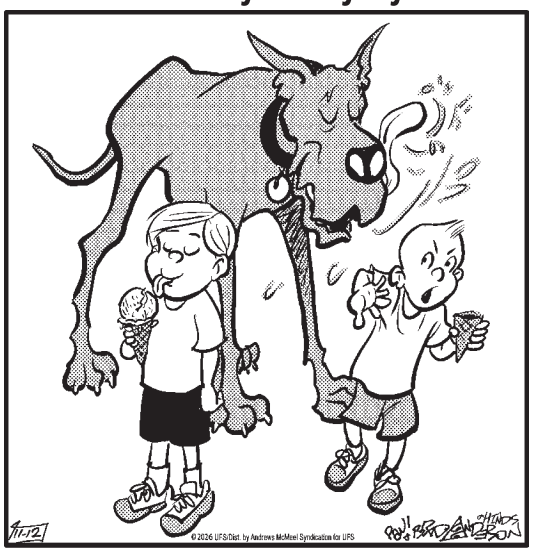
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POISE OFFER AUTUMN BUTLER
Answer: When the politician was arrested for corruption, his supporters — RAN OUT OF "ESTEEM"

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MARMADUKE

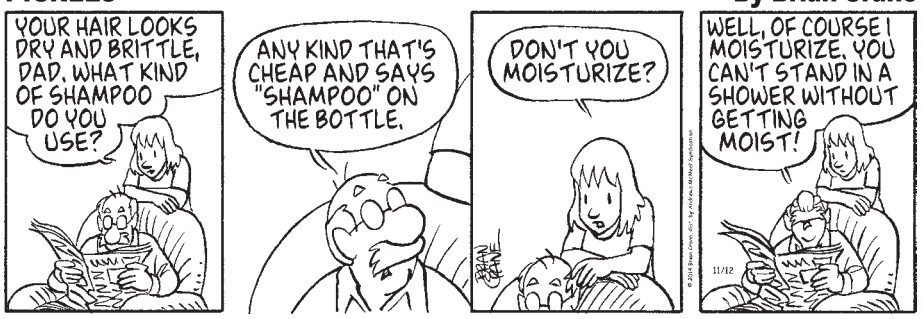
By Bradley Jay Anderson



"You call that a lick? My entire ice cream cone is gone forever!"

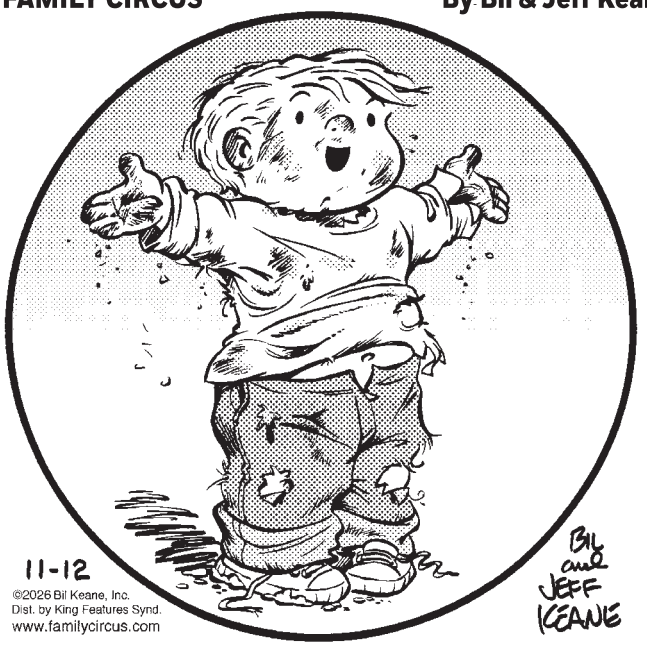
PICKLES

By Brian Crane



FAMILY CIRCUS

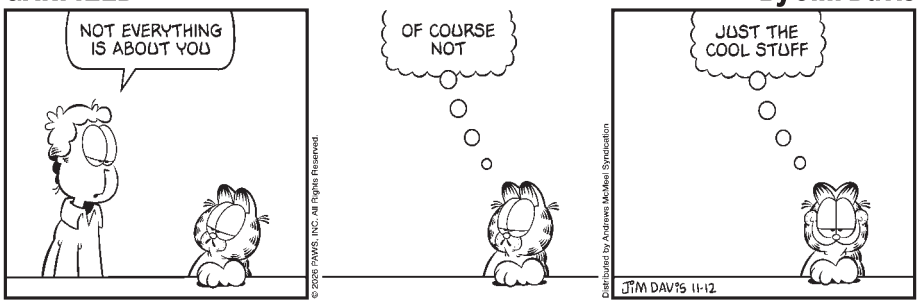
By Bil & Jeff Keane



"I'm not dirty. I just look lived-in."

GARFIELD

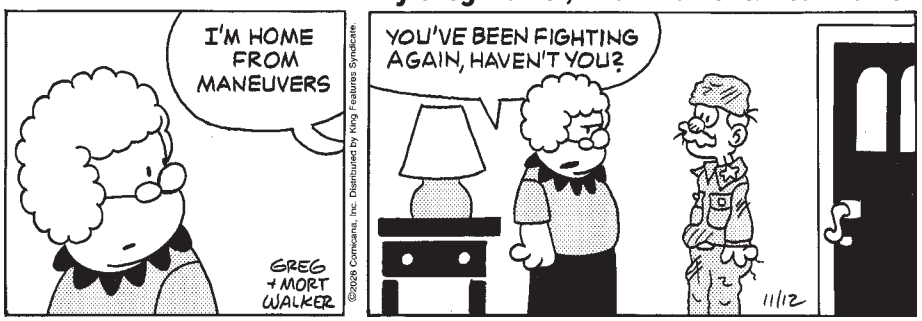
By Jim Davis



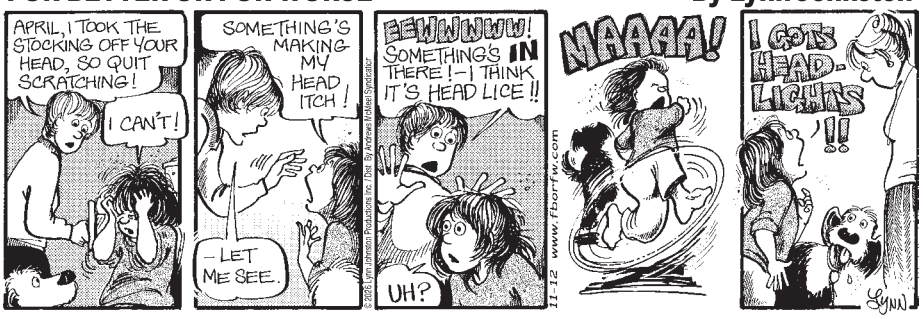
BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



BEETLE BAILEY By Greg Walker, Brian Walker & Neal Walker



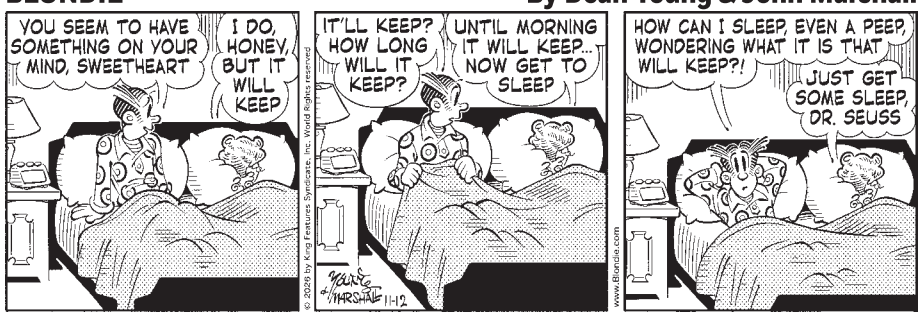
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE By Lynn Johnston



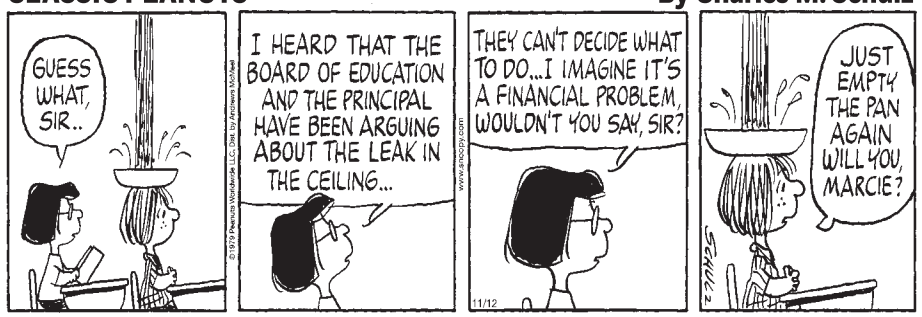
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dik Browne



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall



CLASSIC PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz



LOOKING BACK

Nov. 12

Thursday, Nov. 12, is the 316th day of 2026.

On Nov. 12, 1954, Ellis Island officially closed as an immigration station and detention center. More than 12 million immigrants arrived in the United States via Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954.

Also on this date:

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., and gave the green light to traffic.

In 1936, American playwright Eugene O'Neill received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In 1948, Japanese general and former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war-crimes tribunal; Tojo was executed in December 1948.

In 1970, the Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. The deadliest tropical cyclone on record claimed the lives of an estimated 300,000-500,000 people.

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, en route to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

In 2019, Venice saw its worst flooding in more than 50 years, with the water reaching 6.14 feet above average sea level; damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

In 2021, a judge in Los Angeles ended the conservatorship that had controlled the life and money of pop star Britney Spears for nearly 14 years.

In 2024, Jack Teixeira, a Massachusetts Air National Guard member, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for leaking classified military documents about the war in Ukraine. Nearly a year after his April 2023 arrest, Teixeira had pleaded guilty to willful retention and transmission of national defense information under the Espionage Act.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

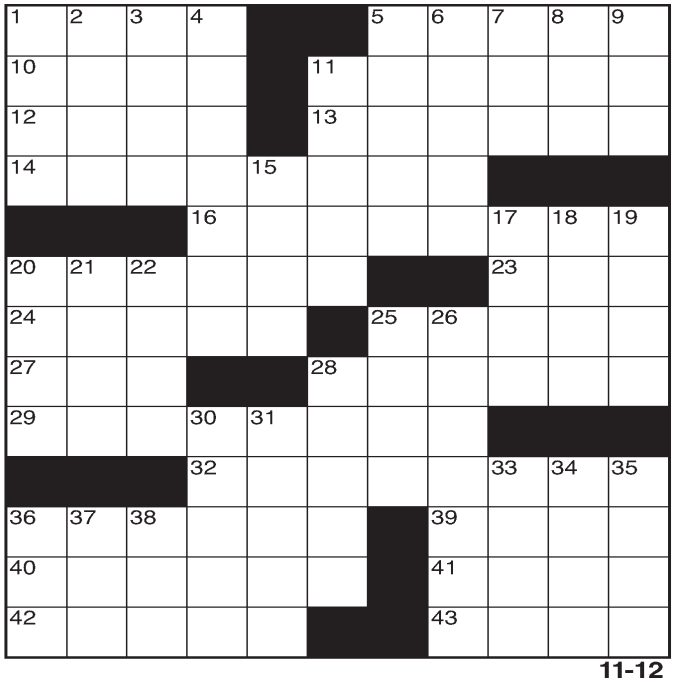
1 View from Tampa
5 Malia's sister
10 Tibet setting
11 Ill humor
12 "Ratatouille" rat
13 Very thin
14 Colorful tree
16 Colorful tree
20 So far
23 Scepter
24 Military choppers
25 Fading, as a fire
27 Common sports injury spot, for short
28 Rough and uneven
29 Colorful tree
32 Colorful tree
36 Worries
39 "Casablanca" role
40 Easter topper
41 Egg setting
42 Take the wheel
43 "American Gigolo" star

DOWN

1 Attire
2 Manual reader
3 Prom transport
4 "King Kong" star
5 Tic
6 Greek vowel
7 View
8 That lady
9 One or more
11 Digging tool
15 Brooklyn team
17 Prudish person
18 Drawn out
19 Tense
20 Turn to slush
21 Pained cry
22 Hero setting
25 Noted vampire, familiarly
26 Being gabby
28 Seaport setting
30 Steak choice
31 Tribal leader
33 Merriment
34 Cold War side
35 Partner
36 Air gun ammo
37 Turn bad
38 Small bill

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

Yesterday's answer



11-12

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

SPAIN WON THE FIFA WORLD CUP! **Solution: 6 letters**

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

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Alex, Argentina, Ayoze, Ball, Bieber, Carvajal, Casado, Champions, Coach, Coldplay, Cubarsi, Cucurella, Dani, De la Fuente, Fans, Ferran Torres, Flags, Gavi, Goal, Grimaldo, Justin, Le Normand, Live, Luis, Madonna, Merino, MetLife, Morata, Nico, Olmo, Pass, Pedri, Pino, Raya, Reds, Remiro, Rodri, Ruiz, Samu, Shakira, Simon, Soccer, Unai, Williams, Yamal, Yeremy

Yesterday's Answer: Big Stan

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

TRIBUNE CROSSWORD

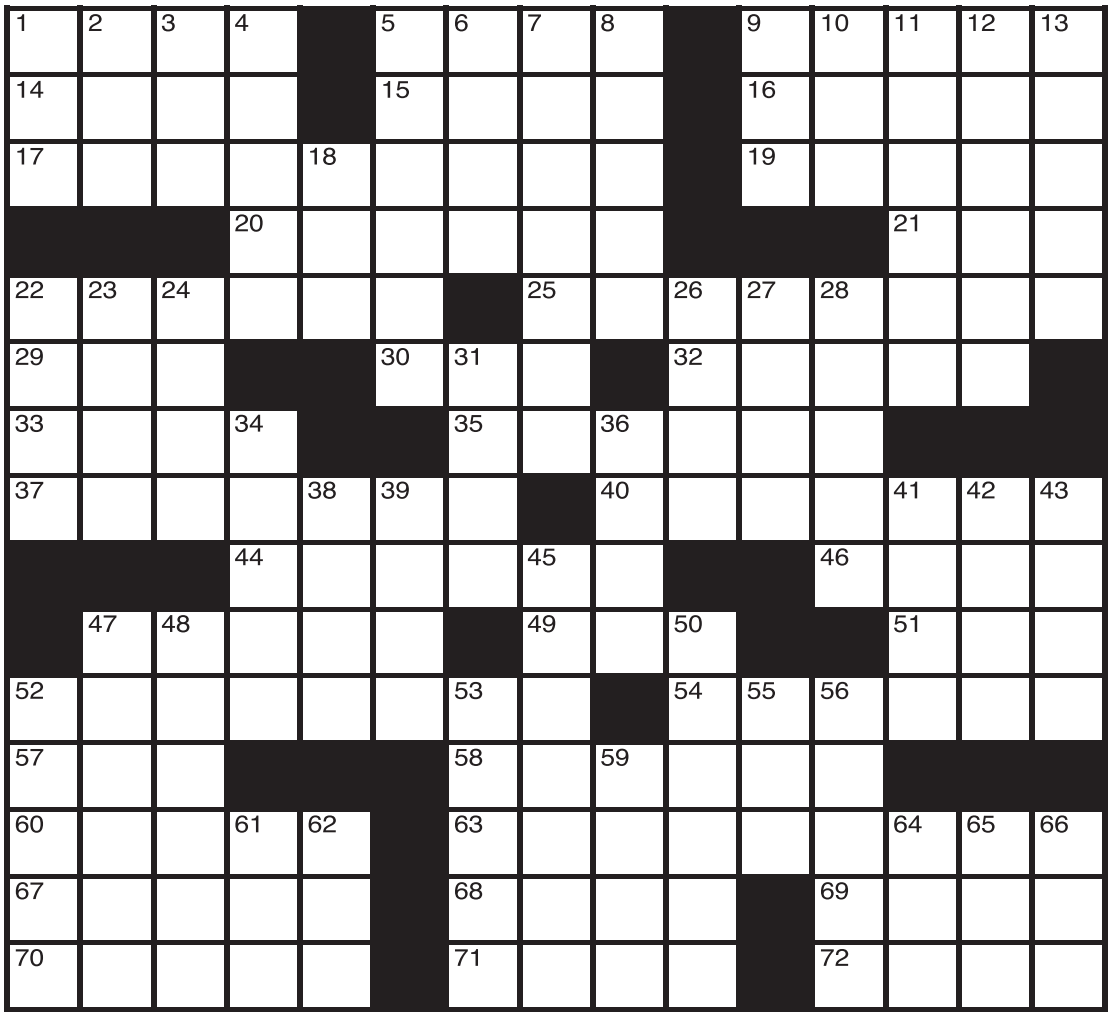
EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 Snatch suddenly
5 Spot protected by a sun hat
9 Coding shortcut
14 Home of the "American Gothic" house
15 Woes
16 Filmmaker Coen
17 First experience with screen sharing?
19 Semesters and quarters
20 Turned into
21 Multnomah Falls st.
22 Heads or tails, e.g.
25 Citrus flavor in Earl Grey tea
29 Owns
30 GPS heading
32 Encouraged
33 Writer/actress Rae
35 World's largest peninsula
37 With 40-Across, salad staple, or what a black square creates in rows 3, 5, 11, and 13 of this puzzle?
40 See 37-Across
44 Cut in half
46 One-named New Age singer
47 Guarded areas in soccer
49 Condo management gp.
51 German article for neuter nouns
52 Curry dish with potatoes and cauliflower
54 The U.K.'s oldest TV network
57 Ballerina's hairdo
58 Venue for shucked oysters
60 Scent
63 Comment after a big meal, perhaps
67 Small bouquet
68 Site for artisans
69 Common mixer
70 Shiitake Happens nail polish brand
71 Suits
72 Understood

DOWN

1 Animated pic
2 King, in Marseille
3 Tool used in manual lockstitch sewing
4 Thumper's deer friend
5 Some reunion attendees
6 Jessica of "Machete"
7 Pipe pro
8 Cosmetician Lauder
9 Sat
10 Put away
11 Safari alternative
12 Muzzle-loading aid
13 First wave
18 Mo. for Advent calendars
22 In vogue
23 Resolve, with "out"
24 __ buco
26 __ Goldberg machine
27 Tenacious quality
28 Banded rock
31 One-named smooth jazz singer
34 HS class covering genetics
36 Silicon Valley city Palo __
38 Signal
39 Canadian gas brand
41 Walk back
42 One shade in the CMYK color model
43 Lack of difficulty
45 Tuscan red
47 Noisily enjoys soup, say
48 Pays tribute to
50 Homes for brothers or sisters
52 Cut down to size
53 To the point
55 Like moldy food
56 Sound from a bat
59 Dominic of "The Wire"
61 Juin preceder
62 "Yes, sailor!"
64 Persona __ grata
65 Taproom pour
66 Bear hand



By Chris Gross & Zhouqin Burnikel

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11/12/26

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

11/07/26

COMICS & FUN

CHECK OUT OUR DIGITAL PUZZLES ONLINE

JUMBLE

By Tribune Content Agency

JUMBLE®

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

ELTMA

IGNSE

ANQTUI

CCTOSH

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



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WOMAN VIGIL SOFTEN HOLLOW
Answer: After chasing birds into the stinky bog, the hunting dog was — SMELLING "FOWL"

MARMADUKE

By Bradley Jay Anderson



"No all-you-can-eat buffet for you!"

PICKLES

By Brian Crane



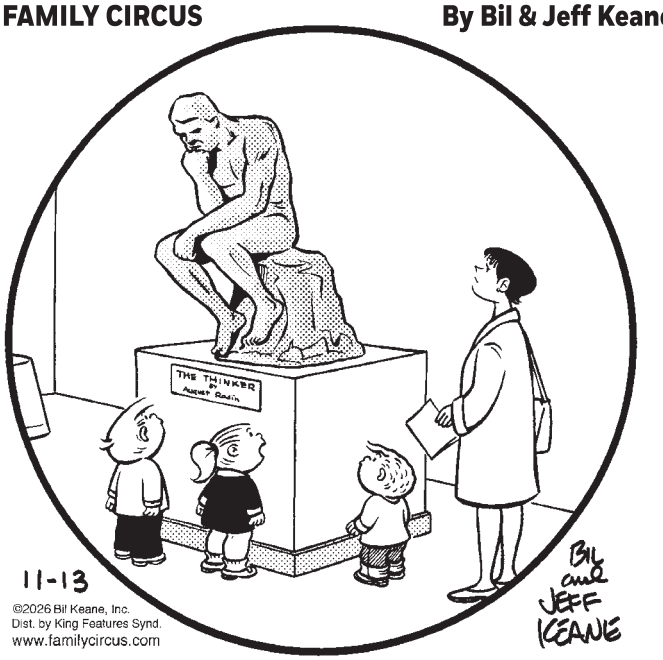
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil & Jeff Keane



"I think he's tryin' to remember where he put his clothes."

BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



BEETLE BAILEY

By Greg Walker, Brian Walker & Neal Walker



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



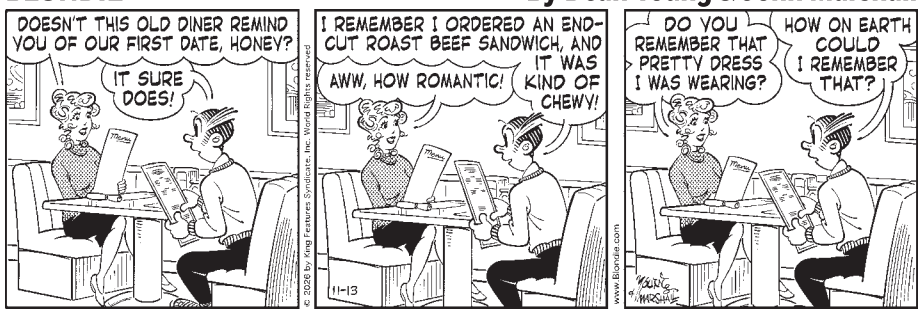
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



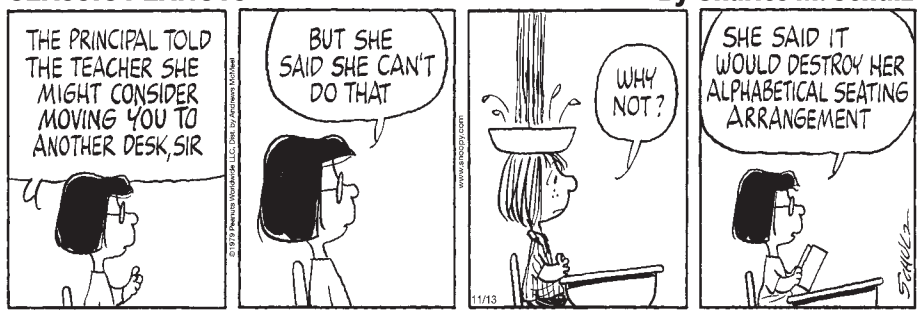
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



TODAY IN HISTORY

Nov. 13

Friday, Nov. 13, is the 317th day of 2026.

On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out coordinated attacks in Paris at the national stadium, in a crowded concert hall, in restaurants and on streets, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Also on this date:

In 1775, during the Revolutionary War, American troops captured Montreal under the command of Continental Army Gen. Richard Montgomery.

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a lower-court ruling which found Alabama bus segregation laws were illegal.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars, becoming the first spacecraft to orbit another planet.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2001, U.S.-backed Northern Alliance fighters in Afghanistan entered Kabul as Taliban forces retreated from the capital city.

In 2022, four University of Idaho students were fatally stabbed in their off-campus rental home in Moscow, Idaho. (Suspect Bryan Kohberger was given four life sentences without parole after pleading guilty to the murders in 2025 in a deal with prosecutors to avoid the death penalty.)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

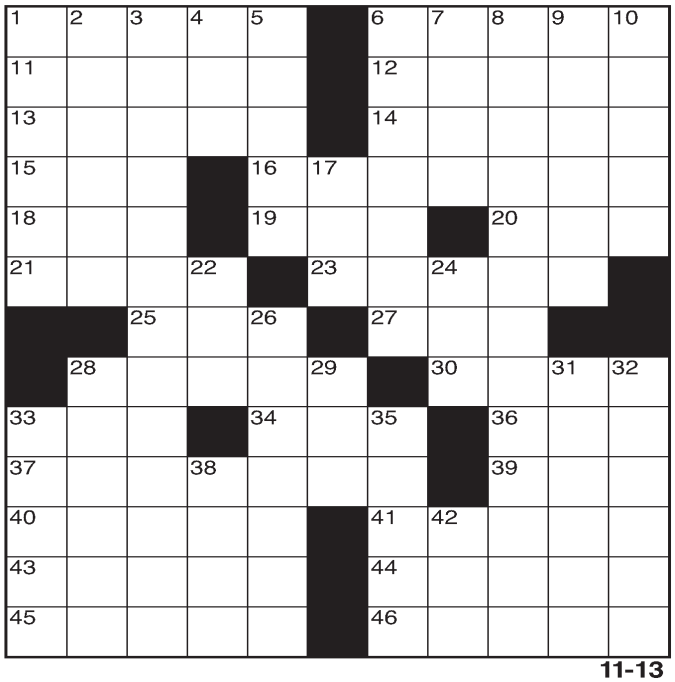
1 Pan, for one
6 Crosses creeks
11 Higher than
12 Justice Kagan
13 Bowler's button
14 Main roles
15 Museum focus
16 Wanes
18 Game cube
19 Music's Yoko
20 Spring month
21 Tombstone name
23 Lipstick slip
25 Tennis need
27 Direction suffix
28 Cruller's kin
30 Concerning
33 Field judge
34 Crater part
36 Team backer
37 Friendly
39 Sphere
40 Sparkly crown
41 Dip for a chip
43 Rocker John
44 Heavens supporter
45 Title documents
46 Panache

DOWN

1 Holiday event
2 Portugal's place
3 Agatha Christie mystery
4 Holiday lead-in
5 Nostalgically trendy
6 Mat word
7 Out of the wind
8 Agatha Christie mystery
9 Make beloved
10 Fresh
17 Print units
22 Stock holder
24 Bit of history
26 Wrapped headdresses
28 Sully
29 Before, briefly
31 Ankle bone
32 Ready to come home
33 Appraised
35 Buttes' kin
38 Yankee great, familiarly
42 Court worker: Abbr.

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

Yesterday's answer



11-13

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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

EMPTY NESTERS — **Solution: 7 letters**

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

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Adjusting, Bittersweet, Calm, Changes, Downsizing, Elderly, Emotional, Family, Freedom, Golf, Grandfather, Grandmother, House, Kids, Letting Go, Life, Lonely, Love, Magic, Miss, Moment, Moving, New Chapter, Newly, Party, Peace, Phone, Quality, Quiet, Read, Reconnecting, Retired, Selling, Sort, Space, Spouse, Time, Travel, Wine, Yoga, Zeal, Zen

Yesterday's Answer: La Roja

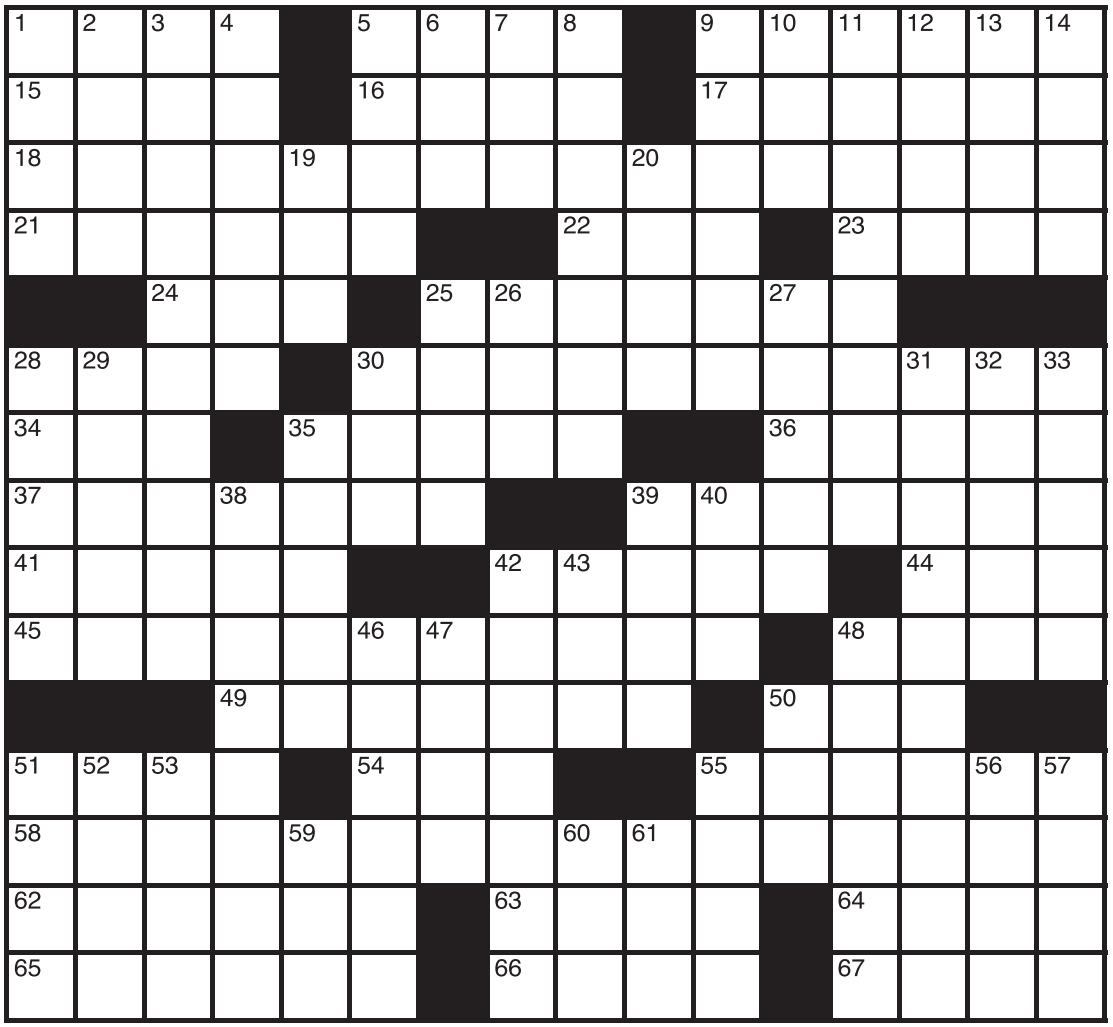
For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

TRIBUNE CROSSWORD

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 Chicago team
5 Atmosphere
9 Put in the rearview mirror
15 Still working
16 Apple variety
17 Beethoven symphony originally intended to honor Napoleon
18 Year of tears?
21 "Hoo boy"
22 Paleozoic, for one
23 Minor progress
24 Little dickens
25 Pumpkin seeds
28 __-bitsy
30 Show bow?
34 Pointillism bit
35 Ribs, e.g.
36 Ashram mentors
37 Class with makeup tests?
39 Countertop option
41 One who keeps on trekkin'
42 Quaint greeting
44 Bird that may be rufous-naped, fire-capped, or black-bibbed
45 Kind of wind?
48 Some postgrad degs.
49 Mixture
50 Poorly lit
51 Big personalities
54 Do one's part
55 "You promise?"
58 Power shower?
62 "Shove it!"
63 Outdated marriage vow word
64 Flooring choice
65 Horse barn sounds
66 Gram
67 Solitaire foundation cards



DOWN

1 Tool for a quick key change
2 State whose license plates say "Life Elevated"
3 "You'll regret that"
4 Torrid
5 Opera mentioned in the 10,000 Maniacs song "Verdi Cries"
6 Actress Thurman
7 Word with UV or X, but not W
8 Learns to live with
9 Frozen Italian desserts
10 Mine find
11 High-grossing film?
12 Staffer
13 Read quickly
14 Small pie
19 Concert piece
20 Opera solo
25 Dinky
26 Before, once
27 Spitting nails
28 Craters of the Moon locale
29 Elixir
30 Business extension
31 Branch of mathematics
32 __ dreaming
33 Future DAs' exams
35 Carried
38 Semi pro?
39 Put off one's game
40 Many a poem by Clint Smith
42 Bring up
43 Limb lifted in a développé
46 Plays loudly
47 Somewhat blue
48 One hanging around a party?
50 MS Word file
51 Starts to peter out
52 Profit
53 Inflatable pilot in "Airplane!"
55 "Hey there!"
56 Single
57 "__ chic!"
59 Vitals checker, briefly
60 Org. for Suns and Rockets
61 Guest room, in a pinch

By Stacey McCullough & Larry Snyder

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11/13/26

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

11/13/26

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

HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, if you have been mulling over going back to school, then now is your opportunity to enroll in a vocational class or take college courses for more credit.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sometimes going about the same schedule day after day can put you in a rut. Change up one aspect of your daily life, and you may notice a big difference, Sagittarius.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Expensive items have been on your mind, Capricorn. However, this may not be the best time to make big financial decisions. Give them a little more thought.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a new coworker may come to you with questions because you are an expert in a particular area. This presents a good opportunity to serve as a mentor.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, surround yourself with people who have more experience than you and can offer advice. Listen to the pearls of wisdom they may share with you.

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Try to take emotion out of your decision-making this week, Aries. Lead with your head instead of your heart, especially where work is concerned.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

A series of events at work may have you thinking about a change in position and/or career, Taurus. Don't make any rash moves just yet.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Family matters come to the forefront this week, Gemini. You may find yourself in the middle of a family squabble. Fortunately, things will blow over quickly.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Try your best to turn a situation that could easily get out of control into one you can manage more easily, Cancer. This is likely to require some quick thinking.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, enjoy socializing with your friends this week. You have been on the go so much that it is time to settle down and enjoy a break and some good conversation.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

You are very good at compromising, Virgo. This is one reason why people like you as a friend. However, do not compromise your own ideals to go along with every plan.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Your creative side will be on display this week, Libra. You can showcase crafts or artwork that is inspired by the colors of autumn. Put your thoughts in motion.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

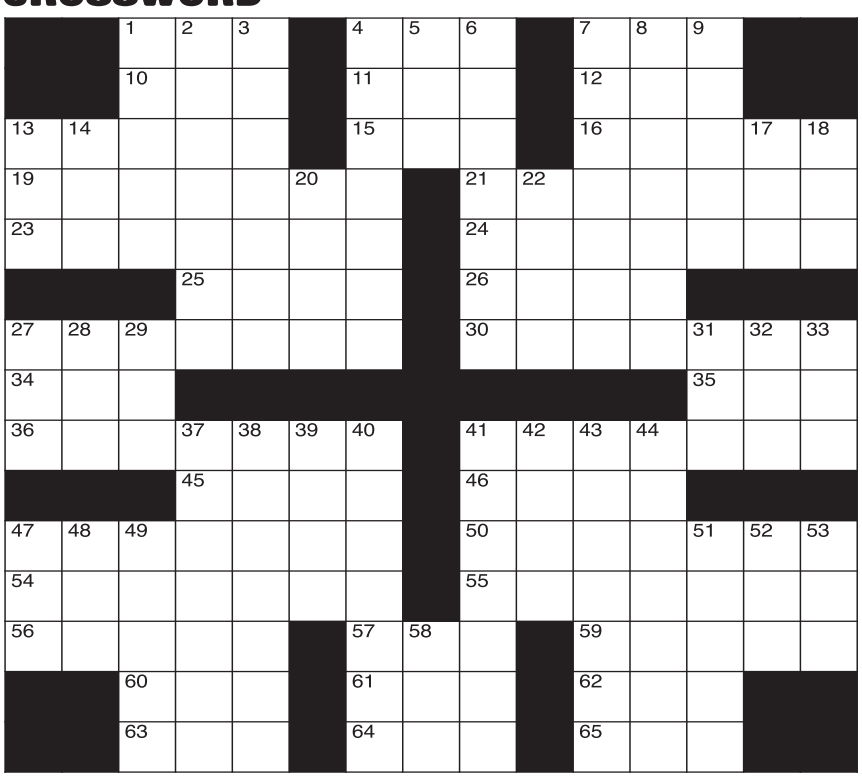
Here's How It Works:

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

ANSWER:

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

CROSSWORD



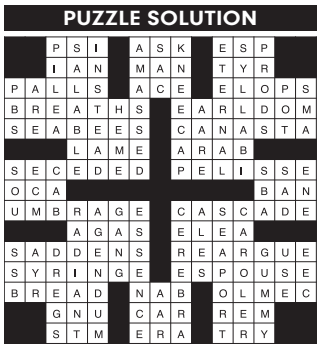
CLUES ACROSS

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION



New Dem leadership targets focus on education

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — The newly selected Arizona House speaker promised Friday one of the first priorities of Democrats now that they are in control is to put more money into public education.

"Unfortunately, for decades the Republican majority who have served in these chambers have turned their backs on our public schools and our public school students," said Rep. Oscar De Los Santos.

"We are going to do the exact opposite," he said. "We want to invest in our public schools."

What that also means, said the Laveen Democrat, is changes in the Empowerment Scholarship Account program that allows all students to get vouchers of state dollars — about $7,500 a year — to attend private or parochial schools or to be home schooled.

"We want to end the waste, fraud, and abuse in the ESA voucher program and make sure that taxpayer dollars are going where they need to go," De Los Santos said.

But Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, in line to be the new majority leader, skirted questions about exactly what that means.

When Katie Hobbs first became governor in 2023 she sought to repeal the system of universal vouchers, returning the program to what it was before: an alternative for students with special needs that could not be met in public schools. That failed to get a hearing.

Hobbs supported more modified changes in following years, leaving the universal program in place but disqualifying families whose income exceeded certain limits. And she sought other oversight of how ESA dollars could be spent.

"We have plan," Gutierrez said



Oscar De Los Santos, in line to become House speaker, answers questions Friday about the priorities of Democrats when they take control of the chamber in January. With him are Quanta Sears, Nancy Guterrez and Brian Garcia, other members of the leadership team. (Capitol Media Services photo by Howard Fischer)

ilies who earn more than $150,000 a year. But voters never got the last word as court concluded there were not enough valid signatures on petitions.

"We're going to move forward the way we should, which is not quick and not without thought," Gutierrez said.

Republican leaders late in this year's legislative session indicated they would be willing to go along with some new guardrails on spending. That followed reports on how parents were using voucher dollars for purchases of kitchen appliances and jewelry to trips to out-of-state amusement parks. But that fell apart after initiative supporters refused to abandon their ballot proposal.

But Steve Montenegro, who had been House speaker but now is relegated to GOP minority leader, has consistently maintained his party members are opposed to the idea of imposing a "means test" on which vouchers is the question of tax policy: who should bear the burden of paying for all government services.

"What we're committed to is a very responsible fiscal approach where everybody pays their fair share and we're delivering affordability for working families and the middle class," De Los Santos said.

But he was noncommittal when asked about whether the idea of a "fair share" means altering the tax structure to require that corporations and billionaires pay higher taxes.

That is not an academic question.

Until 2021 the state had a system of graduated income taxes, with rates as low as 2.59% on those in lower tax brackets to as high as 4.5% on those at the top of the scale. That got scrapped as Republican lawmakers pushed through a flat 2.5% rate.

And corporate tax rates, which had been as high as 6.97% in 2013, were dropped to 4.9%.

Montenegro acknowledged Arizonans chose to put Democrats in charge of the Legislature. But he said that won't mean a change in GOP philosophy, including on tax policy.

"Our principles have no changed," Montenegro said.

"We want to make sure that we're standing against tax increases," he said. "And we want to make sure that Arizona is a state that's affordable to raise a family, to retire, to start a business, to grow your family and your own prosperity."

As to what Democrats plan on tax policy, De Los Santos would focus only on one narrow issue.

"We are making sure that we are not going to be giving away tens of millions of dollars, of taxpayer dollars, hard-working people, hard-working Arizonans, to data centers," he said.

And, even there, De Los Santos provided no specifics.

"We're going to be tactful in our approach," he said.

In 2013, Hobbs, then a state representative voted to give exemptions to data centers from state and local sales taxes for the equipment they buy as part of a larger budget deal.

By this January, however, she proposed eliminating them entirely.

"The incentives have done their job," she told Capitol Media Services.

But the final budget included only a three-year moratorium on new tax breaks.

And how much good that will do remains unclear: the Arizona Commerce Authority received 113 applications for data center sales tax exemptions in the two weeks before the moratorium took effect.

De Los Santos declined to say what Democrats have in mind going forward.

No Labels Party presses appeals court on name change

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — The race is over.

And all their candidates lost.

But that isn't keeping the No Labels Party from trying to convince the state Court of Appeals it is legally entitled to change its name to the Arizona Independent Party.

In new legal filings, attorney Matthew Adler says Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Greg Como got it wrong when he ruled earlier this year that if party officials want to operate under a new name they need to start from scratch and complete all the procedures necessary — including gathering sufficient signatures on petitions — to form an new party.

He pointed out to the appellate judges that Secretary of State Adrian Fontes had no problem with the request, giving it his approval.

But all that changed after attorneys for both the state Democratic and Republican parties sued Fontes to block the move. Adler said the court should recognize the lawsuit for what it was.

"The major parties perceived Arizona Independent Party's name change as a threat to their electoral hegemony," he wrote.

For Como, however, the decision was much simpler.

He said the whole purpose for requiring parties seeking formal recognition on the ballot to get signatures is to show that it has "a meaningful level of support" among Arizona voters. Conversely, Como said, it keeps the ballot from exploding with parties with minimal or no support.



People with the group No Labels hold signs during a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 18, 2011. The No Labels Party is still trying to convince the state Court of Appeals it is legally entitled to change its name to the Arizona Independent Party. (Associated Press/Jacquelyn Martin)

And there's something else.

"When a person signs a petition on behalf of an aspiring party, it is reasonable to infer that they are largely motivated by how the party describes itself, i.e., the party's name," the judge wrote. "Would the same 41,000 people who signed petitions to recognize the No Labels Party have signed to support the 'Arizona Nazi Party' or the 'Arizona Anarchists'?"

That, said Como, is why Arizona law denies Fontes the power to allow a party that has been called one thing — and signed up voters under that name — to later change that name.

"By allowing a party's requested name change, without it obtaining the necessary signatures for party recognition, the secretary permits a political bait and switch," the judge wrote. "A party can gather signatures using an innocuous sounding name and then change it to something completely different."

Adler, in his 47-page appellate filing, said all that is based on a legal error.

"AIP possesses a baseline constitutional right to choose the name by which it is officially known," he said. And Adler, disagreeing with Como, said there is nothing in Arizona law that limits or restricts the right of a party to decide the name by which it is officially known.

"In this country, people are free to exercise their constitutional rights unless and until the government enacts a valid regulation thereof," he said.

Adler said if there is some prohibition on Fontes approving the name change, the law is unconstitutional and must be struck down.

What's behind all this is a bid by former Phoenix Mayor Paul Johnson to make it easier for political independents to run for office.

In 2025 he took over the state faction of the No Labels Party and sought to rename it the Arizona Independent Party.

The reason, he acknowledged, is that it is easier for those with a recognized party to qualify for the ballot.

Under current law, unaffiliated candidates — so-called "independents" — can get their names on the ballot now. But a statewide candidate not affiliated with a recognized party needs to gather at least 44,539 signatures on petitions.

By contrast, for organized major parties the threshold, based on voter registration totals, is much lower: 7,558 for Republicans and 6,761 for Democrats.

Johnson acknowledged one reason he sought permission from Fontes to rename the party with the name "Independent" in it was to encourage and allow political independents to join the newly renamed party — and qualify to run in the 2026 election with just 1,771 signatures.

But it wasn't just the major parties that sued.

There also was a separate legal action filed by the Citizens Clean Elections Commission.

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maureen Therese Simpson passed away on August 22, 2026.

PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §14-6103, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any creditors of Maureen T. Simpson that they must present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, the date the claim is due, the amount claimed, and describing any security for the claim. The claim is deemed presented upon receipt by the Executor at the address set forth herein: Thomas Olson, 9719 W. Alabama Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 30, November 6, 13, 2026/51089_1

Public Notice

THE MUSSATTO FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

Dated this 15th day of October, 2026.

Tina M. Jordan, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 30, November 6, 13, 2026/50992_1

Public Notice

In the Matter of the Trust of THE WJP TRUST, u/t/a dated March 21, 2017 WALTER T. PRICE, Deceased) NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

DATED: 10-22-26

JOSEPHINE C. PRICE, Trustee

ROBERT F. JECKEL
Attorney for Trustee
17028 N. Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85373
(623) 972-1133

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 6, 13, 20, 2026/51358_1

Public Notice

THE CLARE E. PETERSEN TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

Dated this 4 day of November 2026.

Michael C. Petersen, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 13, 20, 27, 2026/51728_1

Public Notice

Person Filing: BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO
Address (if not protected): PROTECTED
City, State, Zip Code:
Telephone:
Email Address:
ATLAS Number:
Lawyer's Bar Number:
Representing ☒ Self, without a Lawyer or
☐ Attorney for ☐ Petitioner OR ☐ Respondent

ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT, PIMA COUNTY

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO
Petitioner
and
CHRISTOPHER LEE ROMERO
Respondent

Case No D 2026 1463
SUMMONS
(Family Law)
LUKE BROWN

WARNING. THIS IS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FROM THE COURT THAT AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. READ THIS SUMMONS CAREFULLY. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE.

FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA TO CHRISTOPHER LEE ROMERO
(Name of Respondent)

1. A lawsuit has been filed against you. A copy of the lawsuit and other related court paperwork is served on you with this Summons.
2. If you do not want a judgment taken against you without your input, you must file a Response in writing with the Court, and you must pay the required filing fee. To file your Response, take or send the papers to: Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, 110 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701. Mail a copy of the Response to your spouse, the Petitioner, at the address listed on the top of this Summons.
3. If this Summons and the other court papers were served on you within the State of Arizona, your Response must be filed within TWENTY (20) CALENDAR DAYS from the date of the service, not counting the day of service. If the papers were served on you outside the State of Arizona, your Response must be filed within THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS, not counting the day of service.
4. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made to the court by parties at least 3 working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding.
5. Either spouse, or both spouses, may file in the conciliation court a petition invoking the jurisdiction of the court for the purpose of preserving the marriage by effecting conciliation between the parties.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of Arizona in and for the County of Pima this day of JUN 2- 2026

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT By JAMES W. GIACOMINO
Deputy Clerk LISSET GONZALES

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2026/50536_1

Public Notice

THE SCHMIDT TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

Dated this 2 day of November, 2026.

Lucy Ann Schommer, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 13, 20, 27, 2026/51727_1

Public Notice

In the Matter of the Trust
of
The JSR Trust dated June 23, 2025, as amended//John Mark Riley and Sandra Jean Riley, deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

DATED: 10/20/2026

Ryan Xaviel Riley, Trustee of The JSR Trust dated June 23, 2025, as amended

Robert F. Jeckel
ROBERT F. JECKEL, P.L.L.C.
17028 North Boswell Blvd.
Sun City, Arizona 85373
623-972-1133

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 30, November 6, 13, 2026/51144_1

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO
Protected Address
Petitioner Pro Per

Prepared by: Ella J. Blass, AZCLDP#81721
AZ Paralegal Assist, LLC #81732

COPY
JUN 2 2026
JAMES W. GIACOMINO
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PIMA

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO, **Petitioner,** and **CHRISTOPHER LEE ROMERO,** **Respondent.**	**CASE NO.** D 2026 1463 LUKE BROWN **PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF NON-COVENANT MARRIAGE WITH CHILDREN** **Hon.**

Petitioner, **BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO**, Pro Per, for her Petition for Dissolution of Non-Covenant Marriage with Children (hereinafter "the Petition"), states and alleges as follows:

1. That Petitioner's name is **BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO**, and she has filed the Sensitive Data Sheet filed with the court and has a protected address. The Petitioner has been domiciled in the State of Arizona in excess of ninety (90) days before the filing of this action. Petitioner is employed as a medical assistant.

2. That Respondent's name is **CHRISTOPHER LEE ROMERO,** and his whereabouts are unknown to Petitioner at this time.

3. That the parties were married on January 27, 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and ever since have been and now are husband and wife.

4. That there is one (1) minor child common to the parties hereto, namely: **JAXON JETER ROMERO,** born May 30, 2017. The Petitioner is not pregnant.

5. That neither party is active-duty military.

6. There are no existing protective orders in effect, but significant physical domestic violence has been perpetrated by Respondent, who has been convicted of felony criminal acts against Petitioner, including, but not limited to, Aggravated Assault, Unlawful Imprisonment and Endangerment. Petitioner was choked to the point of near death by Respondent and is extremely fearful of Respondent.

7. That the marriage of the parties is irretrievably broken with no reasonable prospect for reconciliation and that neither party has filed any other action for dissolution in this or any other jurisdiction. This is not a covenant marriage.

8. That it is in the minor child's best interests that the Petitioner/Mother be awarded sole legal decision-making and be designated the primary residential parent. Father should not exercise any parenting time with the Minor Child. Father abandoned the Minor Child. He last saw the Minor Child in November of 2021. His current whereabouts are unknown to Petitioner. Father is a dangerous convicted felon.

9. That Petitioner's proposed Parenting Plan is being filed herewith, and Petitioner seeks the court's approval of same.

10. That child support should be ordered in accordance with the Arizona Child Support Guidelines and as set forth on Petitioner/Mother's Child Support Worksheet filed concurrent with this Petition.

11. The parties have no community property which needs to be divided between them.

12. That each party should retain their own separate personal property currently in their possession.

13. That the parties has no community debt. Each party should pay whatever debt is in their name alone.

14. That neither party is entitled to an award of spousal maintenance.

15. That Petitioner shall claim the Minor Child as her dependent on her federal and state income tax returns beginning tax year 2026 and each year thereafter.

16. That each party should pay their own attorney and/or legal fees and court costs unless Respondent takes an unreasonable position or unnecessarily delays these proceedings, in which case he should be ordered to pay a portion or all of Petitioner's legal fees and costs;

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays as follows:

A. That this Court enter a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage returning each party to the status of a single person;

B That Petitioner/Mother be awarded sole legal decision-making of the Minor Children and designated the primary residential parent;

C. That Petitioner/Mother's proposed Parenting Plan be approved;

D. That child support be ordered in accordance with the Arizona Child Support Guidelines as reflected on the Petitioner's Child Support Worksheet;

E. That each party retains their own separate personal property currently in their possession;

F. That each party pays any separate debt in their own name.

G. That neither party be awarded spousal maintenance;

H. That Petitioner claim the Minor Child as her tax dependent on her federal and state income tax returns beginning tax year 2026 and each year thereafter;

I. That each party pays their own attorney or legal fees and court costs unless Respondent takes an unreasonable position or unnecessarily delays these proceedings, in which case he should be ordered to pay a portion or all of Petitioner's legal fees and costs;

J. For such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper in the premises.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 2nd day of April 2026.

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO,
Petitioner Pro Per

VERIFICATION

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) SS
COUNTY OF PINAL)

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

That she is the Petitioner in the above-captioned Petition for Dissolution of Non-Covenant Marriage with Children;

That she has read the foregoing Petition for Dissolution of Non-Covenant Marriage with Children, by her subscribed, and knows the contents thereof; and

That she believes that the matters and things herein contained are true and correct in substance and in fact.

BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 2nd day of April 2026 by **BRIANNA DANIELLE CASTRO.**

NOTARY PUBLIC

Ella J Blass
Notary Public
Pinal County, Arizona
My Comm. Expires 04-11-29
Commission No. 660741

Publish: Phoenix Independent,
October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2026/50537_1

Public Notice

Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Arizona Bar #: 03854
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project ("FIRRP")
2025 N. 3rd Street, Suite 205
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Tel.: (602) 283-4791
spfaff@firrp.org

Attorney for the Minor, PETITIONER

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

In the Matter of:	No. JD536519
DANTE ALDAHIR LIZARRAGA ESQUER	**NOTICE OF HEARING OF APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN**
DOB: 12/24/2016 (Person under 18 years of age)	Honorable Commissioner Nicole Bricker

TO: **Luis Alejandro Lizarraga Enriquez**, parent or guardian of the above-named child.

1. Attorney Cooper Richardson filed a Motion to Appoint a Guardian pursuant to Title 8 of the Arizona Revised Statues, Rule 4.1 and 4.2 of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, and Rules 344 and 345 of the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court.

2. The Court has set a Publication Hearing on **December 04, 2026, at 9:50 a.m.** (9:50 a.m. in Sonora, MX) at the Maricopa County Superior Court, 3131 W. Durango St., Phoenix, AZ 85009, before the Honorable Nicole Brickner for the purpose of determining whether any parent or guardian named herein is contesting the allegations in the Motion.

3. You and your children are entitled to have an attorney present at the hearing. You may hire your own attorney or, if you cannot afford an attorney and want to be represented by one, one may be appointed by the Court.

4. You have a right to appear as a party in this proceeding. You are advised that your failure to personally appear in court at the initial hearing, pretrial conference, status conference or adjudication, without good cause shown, may result in a finding that you have waived your legal rights and are not contesting the motion. In addition, if you fail to appear, without good cause, the hearing may go forward in your absence and may result in termination of your parental rights and/or the establishment of a permanent guardianship based on the record and the evidence presented to the Court, as well as an order of paternity, custody, or change of custody in a consolidated family law matter and an order for child support if paternity is established.

5. If you are receiving this Notice by publication, you may obtain a copy of the Guardianship Motion and Notice of Hearing by submitting a written request to: Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein, P.O. Box 32670, Phoenix, AZ 85064 or you may call (602) 283-4791, or email spfaff@firrp.org.

6. Maricopa County Superior Court is conducting the hearing remotely. Parties are instructed to call in using https://tinyurl.com/jbazmc-juj09 or +1 (917) 781-4590, Participant Code 292 462 301#. If the parties would like to appear in person, a request should be made to their attorney, or to the division at (602) 372-2053 if they are not represented by counsel.

7. Requests for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities must be made to the Court by parties at least three working days in advance of a scheduled court proceeding and can be made by calling (602) 372-2053.

8. You have the right to make a request or motion prior to any hearing that the hearing be closed to the public.

DATED this 13th day of October, 2026.

By: /s/ Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Attorney for the Minor

Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Arizona Bar #: 03854
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project ("FIRRP")
2025 N. 3rd Street, Suite 205
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Tel.: (602) 283-4791
spfaff@firrp.org

Abogada para El Menor

EN LA CORTE SUPERIOR DEL ESTADO DE ARIZONA
EN Y PARA EL CONDADO DE MARICOPA

En el caso de:	No. JD536519
DANTE ALDAHIR LIZARRAGA ESQUER	**NOTIFICACION DE AUDIENCIA SOBRE EL NOMBRAMIENTO DE UN TUTOR**
Fecha de Nacimiento: 24/12/2016 (persona menor de 18 años)	Honorable Comisaria Nicole Brickner

A: **Luis Alejandro Lizagarra Enriquez,** padre o tutor del menor dicho.

1. Se notifica que la abogada, Cooper Richardson, sometió una Moción para Nombrar un Tutor según Título 8 de las leyes revisadas de Arizona, reglas 4.1 y 4.2 de las reglas de procedimiento civil, y reglas 344 y 345 de las reglas de procedimiento de la corte juvenil.

2. Se fija una audiencia para considerar la petición para el **04 de diciembre del 2026 a las 9:50 a.m. (9:50 a.m. en Sonora, MX)**, en el Centro de Tribunal Juvenil de Maricopa, 3131 W. Durango St., Phoenix, AZ 85009, ante la Honorable Comisaria Nicole Brickner, para el propósito de determinar si existe un padre o tutor quien quiere disputar los alegatos de la moción.

3. Usted y sus hijos tienen derecho a tener un abogado presente en la audiencia. Usted puede contratar su propio abogado o si no puede pagarle a un abogado pero quiere ser representado por un abogado, la corte le puede asignar un abogado.

4. Usted tiene el derecho de aparecer como un partido en estos procedimientos. Se le advierte que si usted no aparece en la corte en la audiencia inicial, la conferencia preliminar, cualquier conferencia o adjudicación, sin demonstrar una buena razón, el Tribunal podrá considerar su inasistencia como una renuncia de sus derechos y no está en contra de las declaraciones hechas en la moción. Además, si no aparece, sin buena razón, la audiencia podrá llevarse a cabo sin usted, y podrá resultar en la cancelación de la patria potestad y/o el establecimiento de una tutela permanente basado en el récord y la evidencia presentado a la Corte, y además una orden de paternidad, custodia, o cambio de custodia en un asunto de ley familiar consolidado y una orden para apoyo de menor si la paternidad se establece.

5. Si usted está recibiendo esta Notificación por publicación, usted puede obtener copias de la Moción de Tutela y Noticia de Audiencia si envía una solicitud escrita a: Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein, P.O. Box 32670, Phoenix, AZ 85064 o puede llamar (602) 283-4791, o por correo electrónico al spfaff@firrp.org.

6. El Tribunal Superior del Condado de Maricopa está llevando a cabo la audiencia de forma remota. Se les indica a las partes que se conecten a través de https://tinyurl.com/jbazmc-juj09 o llamando al +1 (917) 781-4590, Código de Participante 292 462 301#. Si las partes desean comparecer en persona, deben solicitarlo a su abogado o, si no están representados por un abogado, a la división correspondiente llamando al (602) 372-2053.

7. Solicitudes para acomodaciones razonables para personas con incapacidades necesitan ser hechas por lo menos tres días de trabajo antes del procedimiento de corte, y pueden ser hechas al llamar al (602) 372-2053.

8. Usted tiene el derecho a solicitar o hacer una petición antes de cualquier audiencia que la audiencia sea cerrada al público.

SOMETIDO este 13 día de octubre del 2026.

Por /s/ Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Samantha Pfaff-Goldstein
Abogada para el Menor

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2026/50571_1

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CITY OF EL MIRAGE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The El Mirage City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 1, 2026, at the El Mirage City Hall Council Chambers Room, 10000 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, Arizona 85335 on the following proposal(s): A public hearing, closure of public hearing followed by consideration and action to approve Resolution R26-11-20 authorizing the City to submit a grant application to Maricopa County Community Development Division (MCCD) for FY2027-2028 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and execute subsequent award agreements, to complete construction of Santa Fe Lane roadway improvements between El Mirage Road and 5th Avenue, and authorize Finance to make necessary budget transfers. The public is welcome to attend and comment. For more information, contact the City of El Mirage Grants Program Administrator, Martina Longoria, at 10000 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, Arizona 85335; call 623-876-2941 [TDD 623-933-3258] or email mlongoria@elmirageaz.gov.

To attend the Public Hearing virtually, please visit the City of El Mirage webpage at www.elmirageaz.gov

To speak during the Public Hearing virtually on this agenda item, please complete the Online Speaker Request Form available at www.elmirageaz.gov

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 13, 2026/51730_1

Public Notice

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

Personal Representative:
MICHAEL A. TESKEY
531 South 57th Street
Tacoma, WA 98408

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

In the Matter of the Estate of SUSAN C. TESKEY, Deceased.) PB 2026-007606

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MICHAEL A. TESKEY has been appointed Ancillary Personal Representative of this Estate in the State of Arizona. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the Ancillary Personal Representative in care of the Law Office of Robert F. Jeckel, P.L.L.C. at 17028 North Boswell Blvd., Sun City, Arizona, 85373, Attorney for the Estate.

DATED: 10/16/2026

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

By: Robert F. Jeckel, Attorney for Personal Representative

Michael A. Teskey
MICHAEL A. TESKEY, Ancillary Personal Representative

Publish: Phoenix Independent, October 30, November 6, 13, 2026/51097_1

Public Notice

THE ELIZABETH DIXON TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

Dated this 21 day of October, 2026.

Harvey John Mullery
Harvey John Mullery, Trustee

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 6, 13, 20, 2026/51356_1



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Wed. Healing Service 10am
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10:10 - Coffee
10:30 - 2nd Service
5pm - Evening Service
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2024 TOYOTA SEQUOIA CAPTSTONE **21K MILES** $69,995 #P21516
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2024 CADILLAC XT6 **14K MILES** $46,995 #P21518
2025 CHEVY TAHOE Z71 **26K MILES** $63,995 #P21511
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