TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY
INDEPENDENT
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Volume 43 Issue 47

INSIDE

Volleyball 2A champs **16**



NOVEMBER 25, 2026

Arizona's Nonpartisan Newspaper



Families, veterans, residents and even their pets went to the Paradise Valley Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show to check out unique rides and support veterans on Saturday, Nov. 14.(Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

Car show marks 21 years supporting veterans

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

From historic military vehicles to classic cars spanning generations, the 21st annual Paradise Valley Veteran's Appreciation Vintage Car Show offered residents a chance to explore automotive history while supporting Arizona's military families.

Held at Paradise Valley Town Hall on Nov. 14, the annual gathering brought together car enthusiasts, families and longtime residents for a morning centered on local history, community connections and a shared commitment to veterans.

Bob Brown, who is set to join the Town Council in January,

• See **Car Show** Page **14**

The Casa withdraws solar project

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Franciscan Renewal Center withdrew its application for a proposed solar parking shade project Nov. 12, ending its effort to install solar panels over portions of its parking lot after months of disagreement with neighboring residents over the structures' height and potential impact on mountain views.

Richard Murphy, secretary of the center's board of directors, announced the withdrawal during the Paradise Valley Town Council meeting, saying the center had decided the project was no longer worth the growing conflict with neighbors.

"We pursued this project at the request of a donor. We didn't start it," Murphy said. "A donor asked us, donated the money in good faith, and we said, 'Sure, we will pursue it.' He wanted to help the Casa reduce our reliance on fossil fuels."

The center had revised its plans multiple times in response to con-

• See **Casa** Page **26**

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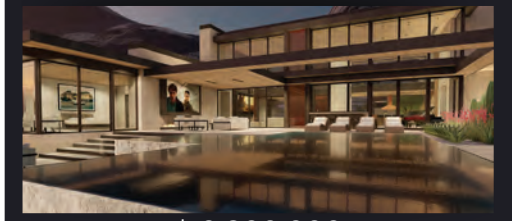

$19,300,000

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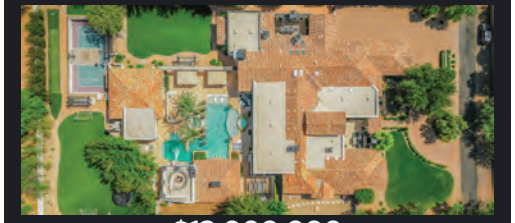
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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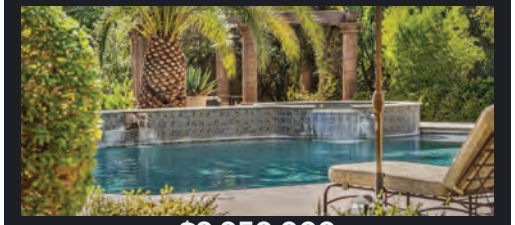
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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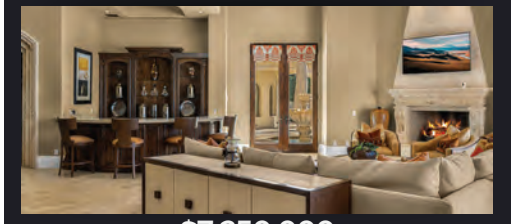

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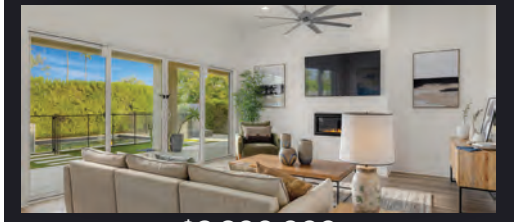

$2,800,000

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THE DEVIL AT THE KITCHEN TABLE

BY GREG HAGUE

Suppose you and your real estate agent are sitting at your kitchen table looking at an offer that's $20,000 shy of what you both think your house is worth.

"If this were your house," you ask, "would you take it?"

Give your agent a second. There's a committee meeting.

The angel on your agent's shoulder says, "Tell them what you'd tell your mother."

The devil on the other shoulder says, "Before we get your mother involved, may I remind you that your mortgage is due Tuesday?"

I sold thousands of homes over five decades, and I'll give the devil this much.



> ***He knows better than to ask an honest agent to lie. He just whispers something perfectly true.***

"You could lose this buyer and the commission you need." Pretty soon the agent believes you ought to take the offer. It may never occur to him that he'd have given you different advice if he'd already made this month's mortgage payment.

What bothers me is how many real estate companies make the devil's job easier. Some 40,000 real estate professionals belong to our regional multiple listing service. About 5,000 to 6,000 homes a month change hands in the Phoenix area. Even allowing for an agent on each side, that leaves a lot of agents waiting for the phone to ring. One national firm published last year's median income for active agents who'd been there more than a year. It was $22,175. That's before gas, marketing, dues and taxes. At that same firm, agents share in the revenue from sales by people they recruit, and the people those recruits bring in, for up to seven levels. What did the median agent with the firm earn from recruiting other agents? Zero. Yes, zero.

If you own the firm and get a cut of everybody's sales, the arithmetic is lovely. From the agent's end of the table, seven people are trying to make supper out of one pie, and the boss has gone out for more forks. Meanwhile, the seller is waiting for her phone to ring.

When I founded 72SOLD eight years ago, I wanted to teach our agents to do such a good job for one family that they'd get invited to the next family's kitchen table. We have about 160 certified agents in Phoenix, by choice. Nobody earns a nickel for recruiting.

On average, our agents earn many times that $22,175 by selling homes and serving the people their clients send their way.

A local title company uses Phoenix MLS records to compare firms by new listings per agent. Our agents have led that comparison every month for seven straight years. I think of each listing as a vote of confidence from a Phoenix homeowner.

This week AZ Big Media's readers chose 72SOLD as Arizona's number one residential real estate company. Of all the awards we've received this past year, this one makes me proudest. I knew what kind of company I wanted to build. You're the people we built it for, and you just told me we'd done it.

If you voted for us, thank you. I couldn't be prouder of our agents and the people back at my office who help them do their jobs.

"Take a little credit, Greg," says the devil. "You founded the company."

> ***The angel asks, "Greg, who sat at all those kitchen tables?"***

Greg Hague **CEO, 72SOLD**

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This publication is offered free of charge in an effort to keep our neighbors informed, as well as to support the local business owners who make up our community. Please support their business. Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions. If an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Downtown East shopping mall hosts new stores

Phoenix-based retail brokerage specialist Western Retail Advisors announced a series of new leases at Downtown East, a 93,000-square-foot shopping center in Old Town, where a now-open Whole Foods has helped fuel leasing momentum and attract a growing mix of retail, wellness and service-oriented tenants.

Owned by Miller Plaza LLC, Downtown East is located at 7620-7628 E. Indian School Rd.

Over the past two years, the center has enjoyed exterior renovations and a lease-up strategy designed to modernize the property in step with the evolution of Old Town, according to a press release.

That includes a brand new, 38,158-square-foot Whole Foods that opens today at Downtown East, becoming the grocer's 11th Arizona store. The location replaces a former Fry's Food Store and serves as Downtown East's new anchor tenant.

Additional new leases signed by Desmond and Wesley at the property include Black Swan Yoga, Livewell Animal Hospital, V's Barber Shop, Peak Running and Zara Nails.

Police participate in Veterans Day tribute

The Paradise Valley Police Department participated in Kiva Elementary School's Veterans Day Tribute, according to the Town Manager's Weekly Update for Nov. 13.

The event honored the courage and sacrifices of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, according to the update.

Two department officers and U.S. Army veterans, Officer Charles Dennis and Officer Ben Auer, took part in the ceremony by raising the American flag.

The department thanked Kiva Elementary School for hosting the tribute and expressed its gratitude to all veterans for their service and dedication to protecting the nation's freedoms.

Church to host Queer Coffee event

Queer Coffee returns Dec 13 at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, according to its website.

The informal gathering welcomes LGBTQ+ members and guests to connect and discuss life, faith and community, according the PVUMC.

The event takes place 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Paradise Perk Coffee Shop, 4455 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253.

Queer Coffee is held on the second Sunday of every month.

Police host Coffee With A Cop focused on DUI awareness

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

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

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



PVPD Officers Charles Dennis and Ben Auer salute the flag at Kiva Elementary's Veterans Day ceremony. (Submitted/Paradise Valley)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thanksgiving came a little early for Paradise Valley Town Council members in 1982, thanks to a thoughtful gesture from town staff.

According to a newspaper account from November 1982, each council member received a turkey from town employees during a Thursday evening meeting.

Town Clerk Mary Ann Brines explained that the town had traditionally purchased turkeys for its employees at Christmastime since incorporation. Staff decided it was time for council members to receive some holiday appreciation of their own, so they began what they hoped would become an annual Thanksgiving tradition.

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BUSINESS NEWS

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Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers celebrates 15 years

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

What started as a neighborhood burger joint in North Scottsdale has grown into a restaurant brand with locations across Arizona.

Now, Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers is celebrating 15 years of serving fresh burgers, cold beer and a place for the community to gather.

Founded in Scottsdale in 2011, the restaurant marked its anniversary Nov. 10, with a focus on the food, sports and community connections that have helped it grow.

For founder and Square One Concepts President and CEO Barrett Rinzler, building a successful restaurant means more than serving good food. It also means becoming part of the communities where the restaurants operate.

The company supports local schools, partners with high school sports teams and hosts fundraising and giveback nights for community organizations.

"As a business owner, the best part of your obligation is to make the communities you're in better, and I think a lot of ways you make the communities you're in better, is you give back to things they don't have or causes that they support," Rinzler said. "That's kind of been our philosophy all the time."

Rinzler said the company also takes pride in creating jobs and providing welcoming places where families, friends and sports fans can gather.





TOP: Phoenix Suns fans support their team at Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers.
BOTTOM: Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers celebrates 15 years in business during November. (Submitted/Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers)

Food has remained a central part of that approach. Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers is known for its fresh, never frozen burgers, scratch-made menu items and more than 100 rotating beer selections.

Rinzler said the company wanted to make quality food even though sports-focused restaurants sometimes rely more heavily on their atmosphere and entertainment.

It wasn't necessarily an effort to outdo competitors, but rather a belief that serving good food should be part of the experience.

"The difference between making food and making good food, you know, isn't that huge of an effort leap so, if you're going to make the food in the first place, you might as well make it good," he said.

Chief Operating Officer Tracy Frazier, who has been with the company since its beginning, said the combination of good food, value, family-friendly dining and sports gives the restaurant broad appeal.

"There's a little bit of everything for everyone, and we recognize that," Frazier said.

Customer support has also helped motivate the company through difficult periods, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Rinzler and Frazier said.

Frazier said the response from residents when the company announces a new location is a reminder of how much communities value having additional dining options.

Since opening its first location in North Scottsdale, Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers has expanded throughout Arizona.

As the company looks toward the future, Rinzler said its focus remains on serving good food and finding ways to contribute to the communities that support its restaurants.

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

STATE OF THE MARKET

WITH PARADISE VALLEY MAYOR MARK STANTON



Join BedBrock for our December State of the Market, featuring an informative discussion on the latest luxury real estate market trends, recent sales activity, and inventory in Paradise Valley. A lifelong Paradise Valley resident and President and CEO of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Stanton will share his perspective on the town's evolution, recent community developments, and vision for the future, including the balance between continued growth and preserving Paradise Valley's distinctive character.

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YOUR OPINION

We hope to stimulate debate, not control it on our opinions pages. We reserve the right to edit submitted opinions. We insist on civility. Please include your name, physical address and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

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

SPEAK UP

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

CORRECTIONS

We promptly correct factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people we cover. Readers who disagree with a news story may respond with a letter.

Thank you to the community

It has been said that you can judge a community by how it treats its children. The Scottsdale Unified School District community once again has demonstrated a deep commitment to future generations by approving the request for a $375 million bond proposal that will ensure our school facilities meet the needs of current and future students.



Dr. Scott Menzel

Over the course of our 130 years serving the community, there have been periods of rapid growth and also periods of decline in enrollment. Through all those changes, the one constant has been a clear and consistent recognition that investing in the system of public education is an essential component to having a vibrant and thriving community. As I reflect on all of the work by countless volunteers to support a "yes" vote on the bond issue, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation.

Over the next five to six years, we will be working diligently to implement the plan to improve our facilities, including safety and security measures, learning environment improvements, and life cycle upgrades that will ensure our learning environments are healthy, safe and appropriate for the everchanging educational landscape.

On behalf of the SUSD staff and governing board, thank you for continuing to invest in our students and the future of our community.

Dr. Scott Menzel
SUPERINTENDENT, SUSD

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**.

Holiday shopping scams thrive on urgency; don't take the bait

The holiday shopping season brings the familiar rush to find the perfect gifts at the best prices. Between Black Friday promotions, social media advertisements and last-minute online orders, shoppers are navigating a constant stream of deals promising big savings.



Chad Forkenbrock

But while consumers are searching for bargains, scammers are looking for opportunities of their own.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2025 more than 40% of people who reported losing money to scams that started on social media said the scam began when they ordered something advertised online.

Recognizing a suspicious offer is important, but so is giving yourself time to check it. A countdown clock or an urgent delivery message should be a reason to pause and verify, not a reason to rush.

Recognizing a suspicious offer is important, but so is giving yourself time to check it. A countdown clock or an urgent delivery message should be a reason to pause and verify, not a reason to rush.

Protecting your money starts with recognizing when a seemingly good deal is designed to make you act before you think. Before making a purchase or responding to an unexpected message, keep these precautions in mind:

*Watch out for deals that seem to good to be true.

*Verify the retailer and the website.

*Use secure payment methods.

*Protect your personal information.

*Keep records and act quickly if something goes wrong.

*Never share a one-time passcode.

The holidays should be about celebrating with family and friends, not about dealing with fraud. Taking a few extra moments to research a retailer, question an unexpected message or verify a website can make a big difference.

As you check gifts off your list this season, remember: If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. No discount is worth putting your financial security at risk.

Chad Forkenbrock is executive vice president and chief operating officer of a Phoenix-based credit union.

Chad Forkenbrock
MESA


Happy Thanksgiving
This season, we are especially grateful for the trust, support, and relationships we have built with our valued clients. It is truly a privilege to be part of the Paradise Valley Community, and we thank you for allowing us to be part of your Real Estate Journey.
From all of us at Grigg's Group powered by The Altman Brothers, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving and a holiday season filled with joy, warmth, and cherished memories!
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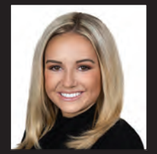



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5248 E ARROYO ROAD
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $13,488,888
4 BEDS | 7 BATHS | 9,287 SQ FT ON 1.09 ACRES



6323 E SAGE DRIVE
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $12,495,888
5 BEDS | 8 BATHS | 7,928 SQ FT ON 1.2 ACRES



8020 N 64TH PLACE
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $11,500,000
6 BEDS | 8 BATHS | 8,009 SQ FT ON 1.04 ACRES



6610 N MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $8,999,888
5 BEDS | 8 BATHS | 8,363 SQ FT ON 1 ACRE



6737 E TAZA WAY
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $8,888,888
4 BEDS | 6 BATHS | 6,796 SQ FT ON NEARLY A 1 ACRE LOT



4715 N LAUNFAL AVE
PHOENIX, 85018 | $8,322,888
6 BEDS | 8 BATHS | 8,332 SQ FT ON 1.07 ACRES



7525 N CLEARWATER PARKWAY
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $5,488,888
6 BEDS | 7 BATHS | 8,290 SQ FT ON 1.3 ACRES



5209 N 63RD PLACE
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $3,999,888
5 BEDS | 6 BATHS | 5,102 SQ FT ON NEARLY A 0.50 ACRE LOT



6440 N 52ND PLACE
PARADISE VALLEY, 85253 | $2,649,888
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,996 SQ FT ON NEARLY A 1 ACRE LOT

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5901 E EDWARD LANE | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED BOTH BUYER & SELLER



SOLD: $19,250,000
6025 E CHOLLA LANE | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER



SOLD: $18,750,000
6447 E MCDONALD DRIVE | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED SELLER



SOLD: $17,000,000
6203 E JOSHUA TREE LANE | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED BOTH BUYER AND SELLER



SOLD: $16,250,000
5001 N WILKINSON ROAD | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED SELLER



SOLD: $16,000,000
6724 N 62ND STREET | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER



SOLD: $14,275,000
6515 E MEADOWLARK LN | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED SELLER



SOLD: $13,000,000
6101 N YUCCA ROAD | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED BUYER



SOLD: $12,300,000
OFF MARKET SALE IN FINISTERRE
REPRESENTED BUYER



SOLD: $12,000,000
6101 E CABALLO LANE | PARADISE VALLEY, AZ
REPRESENTED SELLER



SOLD: $9,100,000
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EDUCATION NEWS

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SUSD bond passage seen by some as vote for strong communities

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

While the numbers aren't official yet, Scottsdale Unified School District's $375 million capital improvement bond appears to have been accepted by the voters, and supporters say that means the district can keep the district's schools safe and offering relevant educational experiences for students.

As of 9 a.m., Nov. 13 the bond was passing with 54,958 yes votes (54.37%) to 46,123 no votes (45.63%). The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors are expected to canvass the results Nov. 18.

"We're going to make sure the schools are working good for the neighborhoods," said Denny Brown, a co-chair of the Still Yes to Children committee that championed the bond.

The five-year bond will pay for infrastructure needs at the schools. Spending would break down to about:

- 34% to learning environment improvements.
- 25% technology enhancements.
- 20% site life cycle renovations.
- 14% school safety and security.
- 5% transportation.
- 2% administrative capital improvements.

"This is the beginning of an important new chapter of work," Superindent Dr. Scott Menzel said in a press release. "Our commitment is not simply to complete projects, but to demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources and communicate openly with the community every step of the way."



Hohokam Elementary is just one of 25 Scottsdale Unified School District schools that will benefit from the five-year, $375 million capital improvement bond passed by voters during the Nov. 3 general election. (Independent Newsmedia/J. Graber)

Brown also noted that effects of the bond approval goes beyond schools, as good schools strengthen the health of the community.

"We bring folks into the city, new parents, job opptunities, etc.," he said. "I think also preserving property values is always a huge deal. A good school preserves property values."

What the bond passage is not, though, is a vote of confidence in the district's leadership, according to Scottsdale City Councilwoman Jan Dubauskas, who has been critical of the district's administration but did not publicly take a stance on the bond.

"I think it means the residents want to give schools the chance to flourish," Dubauskas said. "I don't think it's a judgment on whether or not the schools are flourishing, but I think what they want to do is give the schools the opportunity."

In fact, she said the district is not flourishing, noting hat the its in-boundary student capture rate was 55% last school year.

"It's tough to ask for more money when you're closing schools," said Dubauskas, who pulled her two daughters from the district after the governing board voted to close their school, Copper Ridge Elementary, next year as part of a money saving measure.

In total, the board has voted to close four schools — Pima Elementary and Echo Canyon, Copper Ridge K-8 and Laguna Prep — over the last two years because of declining enrollment and low state funding. Declining enrollment has been an issue faced by public schools across the Valley and the country as well.

Brown said the school closures were definitely part of the questions voters had but people were ultimately able to distinguish between the two issues.

"It certainly made for a question but it is two separate things ... I think maintaining our schools and maintaining the safety of our schools was critical across the board," he said.

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



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Car Show

• From page 1

has attended the show for about a decade. Over the years, he has watched it evolve into an event that draws interest well beyond the car-collecting community.

"I've seen a lot more community interest, and in particular, this car show is more community centric than any other car show that I've been to," Brown said.

He said other car show enthusiasts he encounters often remark that they have never attended an event quite like Paradise Valley's.

The range of vehicles is part of the appeal, with displays featuring different makes and models, some dating back to the 1920s, as well as military vehicles that offer a glimpse into the past.

For Paradise Valley resident Riley Cooney, who attended with his wife and two sons, one of those displays became a personal connection to his family's history.

A World War II-era military vehicle caught his attention because it featured a map documenting the places it had traveled. Looking at its history, Cooney realized it had been in the same area at the same time his grandfather was serving during the war.

"It's neat to see people take care of pieces of history," Cooney said. "It was really neat standing in something that he would have stood in."

The opportunity to learn about the past was meaningful, but so was the reason the community gathered.

"It means a lot that everyone's willing to support our veterans, and it's a great week to do it," he said.

That charitable purpose is a defining part of the annual event. Proceeds benefit Sentinels of Freedom and the Military Assistance Mission, Arizona organizations that support veterans and active-duty service members and their families.





TOP: Car enthusiasts gather around a vintage convertible at the Paradise Valley Veterans Vintage Car Show on Nov. 14.
BOTTOM: A World War 2 military vehicle parked in front of town hall at the Paradise Valley Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show on Saturday, Nov. 14. (Independent Newsmedia/ Allison Kotzbauer)

Sentinels of Freedom helps severely wounded and injured post-9/11 veterans transition to civilian life through financial assistance, mentorship, education and career support.

MAM provides emergency financial assistance and support to active-duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, eligible veterans and their families, helping with necessities such as housing, food and transportation.

David Lemelin, a member of the Paradise Valley Arts Board, said the event reflects something he values most about the town.

"One of the things I love about Paradise Valley is how it's supportive of really great causes and this is one for veterans," Lemelin said.

He also sees the show as an opportunity for neighbors to reconnect.

"You walk around, and you recognize so many folks that you've known over the years. It's just a great social event and also benefits our veterans," he said.

MAM was founded by Margy Bonds after her son, Marine Sgt. Michael Adam Marzano, was killed in Iraq in 2005. She established the organization to continue his legacy of service by helping military families facing financial hardships.

Advertisement

For Bonds, the continued community connection is especially meaningful. Returning to the show year after year gives the organization an opportunity to reconnect with supporters and introduce more people to its work.

"It feels really good because they know us," Bonds said. "The first thing this morning, somebody walked up and was wearing our MAM hat."

Bonds said the event brings together people who share an appreciation for military history and service, creating a natural connection between car enthusiasts and veterans.

She also emphasized that the value of community events extends beyond the donations collected that day. Meeting people and sharing the organization's mission can lead to support long after the event ends.

That outreach is increasingly important as the organization faces a difficult financial climate.

"Our problem right now is, because of the economy, donations have dropped considerably, but the need has risen considerably. So it's really a struggle," Bonds said.

For its 21st year, the car show once again gave Paradise Valley residents a reason to gather, share an appreciation for history and support the service members and families who need help.

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

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SPORTS NEWS

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Phoenix Country Day School raises the 2A trophy after defeating Scottsdale Christian Academy in the state championship match Nov. 14 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix. (Independent Newsmedia/Brittany Bowyer)

Phoenix Country Day claims 2A volleyball title

By Brittany Bowyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

PHOENIX — With a well-balanced attack, Phoenix Country Day School was able to get the job done and win the 2A state girls volleyball final match 3-1 on Nov. 14, claiming the title.

For Coach Kat Glaesman and her squad, it was a surreal moment.

"It's just been such a journey," Glaesman said.

It is the fourth state 2A title for the Eagles and Glaesman this decade. Phoenix Country day knocked off defending champ Scottsdale Christian.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," junior Annkia Etheridge said. "We've been working towards it this whole season, so I'm just really grateful for this opportunity to play on this team."

Part of Phoenix Country Day's success was the ability to have contributions from a number of girls on the team.

"I think it was something that was really unique to us, because of how talented we are," Etheridge said. "Other teams are very heavy on one hitter, but since we had a good connection with our setter and we had good team chemistry, that really was instrumental to helping us win the state championship."

• See **Volleyball** Page **20**

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Volleyball

• From page 16

Glaesman said part of what makes this championship different from the other three in program history is its depth.

"I think we're definitely the deepest team in the state, where so many girls sitting on the bench would be starting at any other program," Glaesman said. "I think we can run a much more balanced attack, and (SCA) always had to be on their toes and they didn't know which hitter it was going to."

In set one, PCDS found itself leading 5-1 to start.

After a line violation pushed PCDS's lead to 20-15, SCA called its second timeout. Coming out of the timeout, junior Layla Jarvis had an ace to extend the lead to 21-15.

Phoenix Country Day was able to build a 24-17 lead, but struggled to close out the set, giving up three more points before sophomore Emery Ossenfort hammered it down to finish things at 25-20.

"I think we're really lucky to have multiple people to lean on, especially if someone's having an off day or not really doing great, then we can lean on other players," senior Rian Chang said.

Phoenix Country Day took another early lead in set two, but Scottsdale Christian came roaring back to take a 9-7 lead.

The No. 2 seed was hot, though, and continued pushing to a 16-10 lead.

PCDS was able to work its way back and take an 18-17 lead, but it would be short-lived. A kill from Kaya Olafson would tie things before a block from junior Tilly Gardner gave SCA the 19-18 lead.

Scottsdale Christian closed things out with an ace from Olafson to take set two 25-21 and even the match 1-1.

"(SCA) has a lot of powerful hitters, and I think we're not used to seeing that many weapons," Glaesman said. "Like, three or four good hitters, so we really had to step up our defense."

Phoenix Country Day was able to push its way out to an 8-3 lead in set three behind a strong performance from Jones.

Later in the set, PCDS worked its way to a nine-point lead, but SCA caught a late wind.

The last serve of the set went of bounds, giving Phoenix Country Day set three 25-17 and a 2-1 lead in the match.

"We've worked really hard throughout the season," Chang said. "I'm just really proud of how we played today."

Riding the momentum, set four was all Phoenix Country Day early on as they jumped out to a 6-0 lead. SCA called a timeout and talked it over, answering by going on a 5-1 run.

Phoenix Country Day replied with four straight points and took over from there. A kill from Jarvis ended the match, as Phoenix Country Day took set four 25-17.

"I'm just so happy for this group of girls," Glaesman said. "They're a really, really hard working group of girls. Our team culture has been awesome. They're so kind to each other, they work hard. We've been working so hard at practice. So, it's a really good group of girls and to get this to end their season makes me really happy."

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.





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FOODIE PROFILE

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Costa Bella serving Italian food in North Scottsdale

Restaurant name: Costa Bella
Owner/chef: Charlotte Bianchi and Olivier Coscas
Address: 14692 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., #147, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Phone number: (480) 203-2034
Website and social media: Website: costabellarestaurant.az Instagram: @costabella.restaurant
Type of cuisine: Italian-inspired cuisine
Days and hours of operation: Monday–Sunday, 4 p.m.–9 p.m.
Year established: Opened October 6, 2026
Dine-in, takeout, delivery or catering options: Dine-in and takeout



Costa Bella has a variety of Italian inspired dishes and drinks to be enjoyed with an at home feelin North Scottsdale. (Submitted photo/Costa Bella)

What's the story behind your restaurant?
Owners Charlotte Bianchi and Olivier Coscas opened Costa Bella after working in the same building at a different restaurant for five years. When the previous restaurant closed, they saw it as the perfect opportunity to pursue their dream of opening a place of their own. They wanted to create a welcoming restaurant where guests feel like family and where personal connections are just as important as the food.

What are your most popular or signature menu items? What would you recommend a first-time customer try?
Some of Costa Bella's standout dishes include the seafood cioppino pasta, grilled octopus appetizer, and grilled artichoke appetizer.

What makes your restaurant unique?
The genuine family atmosphere. Charlotte and Olivier are not just the owners; they are also hands-on servers who get to know their customers personally. They build relationships with their guests and remember their preferences. In fact, some regular customers have their favorite drinks ready and waiting as soon as they walk through the door. At Costa Bella, guests aren't just customers—they become part of the family.

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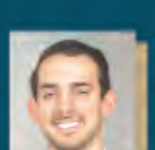

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Paradise Valley Mayor's Advisory Youth Council member Umeed Singh speaks during the council's Wednesday, Sept. 9, meeting, in Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

Youth council presents sustainability audit

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Two members of the Paradise Valley Mayor's Advisory Youth Council presented recommendations for improving sustainability at Town Hall during the Oct. 22 Town Council meeting.

The members focused on small, cost-effective changes the town could make to reduce waste in Town Hall as to set an example for residents and businesses that it is possible.

Xavier College Preparatory students and Paradise Valley residents Claire Young and Allison Weddell conducted the audit to identify existing sustainability practices and opportunities for improvement.

The goal, Young said, was to find ways to promote sustainability in Paradise Valley that are accessible, inexpensive and realistic.

"We weren't looking to propose something big or costly. We just wanted to look at what's already here and how it could be made easier, cheaper or more accessible," she said.

The students began by highlighting existing efforts, including the town's incorporation of sustainability initiatives into its general plan, despite Arizona not requiring it.

During a tour of Town Hall led by Vice Mayor Christine Labelle and Town Manager Andrew Ching, they also observed the use of live plants instead of plastic ones, paper cups and designated recycling practices for plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

However, the audit identified four opportunities for improvement.

The first was replacing plastic forks and spoons found in several rooms with alternatives such as wooden or bamboo utensils, depending on cost, durability and disposal options.

The second was reducing individually packaged plastic creamer cups by considering bulk dispensers or pitchers. The students also recommended evaluating

• See **Youth Council** Page **28**

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Casa

• From page 1

cerns from nearby residents, reducing the proposed structures' height from 15 feet to 14 feet and then to 13 feet.

"There comes a point, however, when further changes defeat the purpose of the project itself," he said.

Murphy acknowledged that the disagreement had become increasingly contentious, but said the center did not intend to use the Nov. 12 meeting to revisit the arguments surrounding the proposal.

"Good people have disagreed and the disagreement has certainly grown sharp," he said. "We do not agree with everything that has been said about the Casa or even this project. But tonight, from our perspective, it's not the night to debate it and we're not going to."

He emphasized that maintaining relationships with neighbors was more important than moving forward with the solar installation.

"We are a peaceful and welcoming faith community. I think everybody knows that," Murphy said. "No solar project is worth dividing neighbors. It just isn't. And a ministry built on peace such as the Casa cannot pursue even a worthwhile goal through continuing conflict."

Murphy said the decision followed three weeks of consideration by the center.

"This is what we do at the Casa. We listen to everybody. We consider everything. We take everything very seriously," he said.

The proposed project would have added three solar panel shade structures to parking areas on the western and northwestern portions of the Franciscan Renewal Center campus at 5802 E. Lincoln Drive. The structures were intended to provide shade for vehicles while generating electricity for the property.







TOP LEFT: Franciscan Renewal Center Board Secretary Richard Murphy speaks to town council members at the Nov. 12 Paradise Valley town council meeting.
TOP RIGHT: Paradise Valley residents attend the town council's meeting on Nov. 12.
BOTTOM RIGHT: The Paradise Valley Town Council listens intently at their Nov. 12 meeting.
(Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

The project had been the subject of debate at an earlier Town Council meeting, when residents raised concerns about the structures' height and their potential to obstruct views of the surrounding mountains.

The council voted 6-1 to delay consideration of the application until Nov. 12, giving the center additional time to address residents' concerns.

At that meeting, the center had presented revised plans reducing the project area from 12,281 square feet to 11,237 square feet and offering to limit the structures to 14 feet in height, with 11 feet of clearance underneath.

Despite those changes, several council members questioned whether the proposed height adequately addressed neighboring residents' concerns.

Councilmember Julie Pace suggested lowering the structures to 9 feet, while other council members expressed concerns about the center's communication and efforts to reach a compromise.

The center had argued that additional reductions would interfere with the structures' intended function, including accommodating larger vehicles.

With the withdrawal, the council did not need to decide whether to approve the proposed solar parking structures and members of the council thanked the Casa for doing what they feel is right for the town.Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org.

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Paradise Valley Mayor's Advisory Youth Council member Umeed Singh speaks during the council's Wednesday, Sept. 9, meeting, in Paradise Valley.(Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

Youth Council

• From page **24**

the installation of a water bottle filling station for employees and residents attending public meetings.

After speaking with the finance department, they learned the town purchases bottled water for staff meetings and events. Comparing those ongoing expenses with the installation, plumbing and filter costs of a refill station could help determine whether the investment would make financial sense.

The fourth recommendation was exploring fiber-based cup lids that could be used with the paper cups already available in some Town Hall rooms.

"Paradise Valley has already taken positive steps towards sustainability and we hope these opportunities can help build on that progress," Weddell said.

Together, the recommendations focused on reducing everyday waste without requiring major changes or significant spending.

The students said evaluating existing practices and comparing alternatives could help the town identify practical ways to become more sustainable.

The audit builds on the youth council members' initial goal of starting with Town Hall before potentially expanding their ideas to other parts of Paradise Valley, including neighborhoods, golf courses and resorts.

During their initial discussions about the project in September, Young and Weddell said they hoped starting with the town government would demonstrate how residents and other municipalities could make similar changes.

The students have emphasized that sustainability is important because Paradise Valley is their home and decisions made today will affect future generations of residents.

"We do have to have more input on what we do here, because we're the ones affected by it in the future," Young said in September. "Our town manager (and staff) are very supportive."

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

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LIVE JAZZ

ABOUT: January through June, Ravenscroft, 8445 E. Hartford Drive, Scottsdale.
INFO: Live performances by various artists.
WEB: theravenscroft.com

ART GALLERY

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

ART EXHIBIT

ABOUT: 11 a.m. 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and 11 a.m. 7 p.m. Thursdays , Scottsdale Museum of Modern Art, 7374 E. Second Street, Scottsdale INFO: "Chicomoztoc: The Cosmic Throne," the first museum exhibit of Estephania González , explores concepts of space-time and cosmologies from both physics and Indigenous narratives and how they intersect with personal identity.
WEB: scottsdalearts.org

LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC

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



Santa will be at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Scottsdale Quarter shopping mall Nov. 28. (Submitted Photo/Vestar)

LIVE CLASSICAL MUSIC

ABOUT: 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and 4 p.m. Dec. 20, La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, 6300 E. Bell Road, in Scottsdale.
INFO: The Scottsdale Philharmonic will play a selection of holiday favorites for the whole family to enjoy. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be there.
WEB: scottsdalephilharmonic.com

JINGLE AT JW

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

BLUE ZONES

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

CHORAL MUSIC

ABOUT: 3 p.m. Dec. 13, Camelback Christian Church, 6235 E. Camelback Road, in Scottsdale.
INFO: The Carolyn Eynon Singers welcome the holiday season with a festive afternoon of cherished Christmas traditions, uplifting choral works, and music that captures the warmth and wonder of the season.
WEB: cesingers.org

• See **To Do** Page **31**

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 Apache Junction Independent will host a senior expo Jan. 6 at Central Arizona College.
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Hidden in the Hills: 30 years of opening studio doors

By Michelle Talsma Everson
Special to Independent Newsmedia

Thirty years ago, Hidden in the Hills began with artists opening their studio doors and inviting people to come see what they were making. That basic idea has not changed much. Almost everything around it has.

The 30th annual Hidden in the Hills Artist Studio Tour continues Nov. 27-29, bringing 150 artists to 38 studios throughout Cave Creek, Carefree and north Scottsdale. The free, self-guided tour runs 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day and is billed as Arizona's largest and longest-running artist studio tour.

Thousands of visitors will spend the weekend moving from studio to studio, meeting artists, seeing where they work and browsing everything from paintings and ceramics to sculpture, photography, jewelry and mixed media. With the tour landing just before the holidays, it has also become a place to look for one-of-a-kind gifts.

For seven artists, this year carries another distinction: They were there at the beginning and have participated all 30 years.

First- and second-year participants are also part of the 2026 tour, and artists travel from across Arizona to take part. This year's participants include artists from Goodyear, Tucson, Chandler, Queen Creek and Fountain Hills, along with others from across the East and West valleys.



Christian Recovery Network AZ co-founder Tim Hayden speaks at the organization's launch at Topgolf Scottsdale. (Submitted photo/Christian Recovery Network AZ)

That mix gives longtime visitors a reason to come back. They can stop in on an artist they have followed for years, then head down the road and find someone new.

Jeanne Bonine on the cover

For the 30th anniversary, one longtime Hidden in the Hills artist will be especially easy to spot.

North Scottsdale romantic realist painter Jeanne Bonine's oil painting "Welcome to My World" was selected for the cover of the 2026 Hidden in the Hills Artist Directory.

Bonine, 82, has been painting professionally for more than 60 years. Even with a long list of career highlights, this recognition stands out for a different reason.

"Although I have received many honors during 60 plus years of my art career, including covers of various art magazines, participating in museum shows, and having my work appear on special projects like Northwest Airlines International Airline menus, it is still exciting and meaningful to be elevated by my peers as I was chosen this year's cover artist for Hidden in the Hills," Bonine said.

She will welcome visitors to Studio No. 15, where guests can see "Welcome to My World" along with new oil paintings, originals and limited-edition giclées, hand-painted heirloom glass ornaments, mini oils, greeting cards and her coffee-table book, "Inspirations of Timeless Beauty."

Bonine said she hopes the cover brings some new faces through the door. "I sincerely hope to touch all who enter my world," she said.

That is still what Hidden in the Hills comes down to after 30 years: walking into a studio, talking with the person who made the work and seeing a side of the creative process that usually happens behind closed doors. The tour may be bigger now, but that part remains personal.

Hidden in the Hills admission is free. For the artist directory, studio locations and participating artists, visit HiddenInTheHills.org.

To Do

• From page 30

TREE LIGHTING

ABOUT: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 28, Scottsdale Quarter shopping mall, 15279 N Scottsdale Rd.
INFO: This paid event offers an enchanting evening under the stars including live performances, Santa and festive holiday entertainment all night long. Proceeds will go to the Phoenix Children's Hope Fund.
WEB: scottsdalequarter.com

LIVE THEATER

ABOUT: Shows Tuesday-Sunday, Rose Theatre, 455 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix.
INFO: "A Drunk Christmas Carol" is a boozy modern take on the classic play by Charles Dickens for a 21+ audience. The roughly 100-seat venue places audience members around and on the floor near the stage, creating an intimate setting where the line between performer and spectator often blurs.
WEB: drunkchristmas.com

CHOIR SHOW

ABOUT: Saturday, December 19, 2p.m.–4p.m., Camelback Bible Church, 3900 E. Stanford Dr, Paradise Valley.
INFO: Phoenix Chorale performance led by Christopher Gabbitas, highlighting Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, seasonal pieces, and a carol sing-along.
WEB: camelbackbible.com

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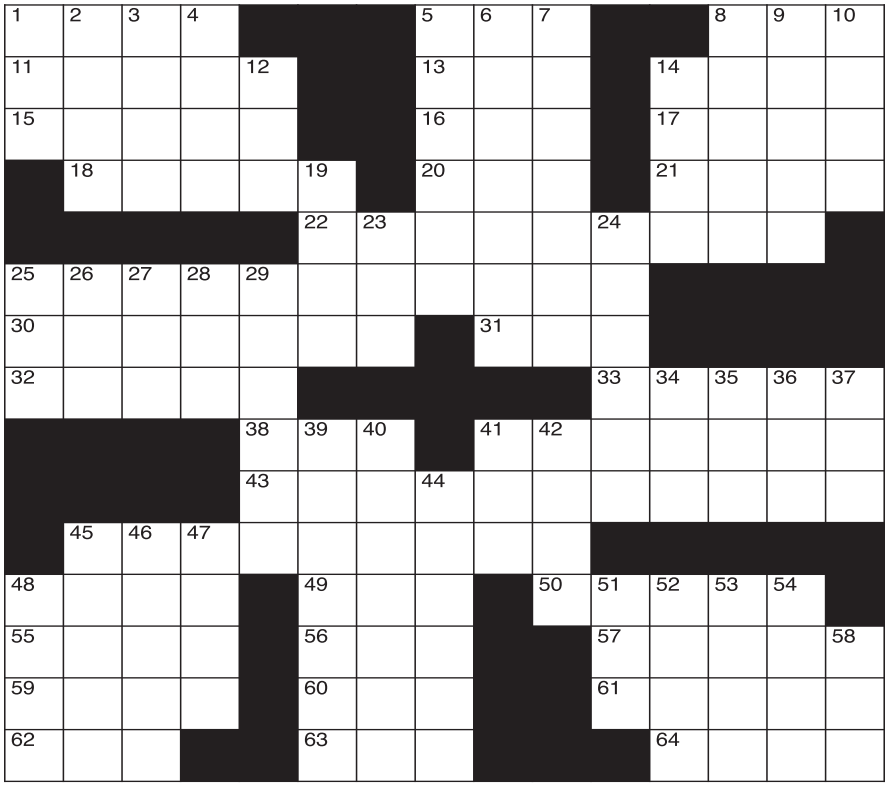

CLUES ACROSS

1. Insect feeler
5. Central processing unit
8. Part of (abbr.)
11. Typical
13. Tall, rounded vase
14. __ Alto, California city
15. Lustrous, velvet-like fabric
16. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
17. Hebrew calendar month
18. British surgeon who discovered bone disease
20. Agreement between debtor and creditor (abbr.)
21. Elongated part of anatomical structure
22. Acts slowly on
25. Keeps a little too safe
30. Greek seaport
31. "Baba O'Riley" rockers
32. Vision
33. Potassium nitrate in mineral form
38. Midway between northeast and east
41. Not a pro
43. Give a new look
45. Sensational
48. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
49. Annoy constantly
50. Vaccine developer
55. Lying down
56. Type of language (abbr.)
57. Flat-bottomed boat
59. Smallest or slightest
60. Bind
61. Speeds
62. The products of human creativity
63. Consume food
64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

1. A young canine
2. As fast as can be done
3. Soviet moon probes
4. Sharp spasm of pain
5. One who adheres to a specific art movement
6. Show parts of
7. Unfasten
8. San Diego ballplayer
9. Santa
10. Rocky peaks
12. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
14. A written agreement between two sides
19. Beginning to end (abbr.)
23. Greek goddess of the dawn
24. Not written in any key
25. Organized missions
26. Seven
27. Work unit
28. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
29. Broadway legend Bernadette
34. Belonging to a thing
35. Vietnamese offensive
36. Bitterly regret
37. Make a mistake
39. Newborn child
40. A combined landmass
41. Satisfaction
42. Hilly peninsulas in Denmark
44. Young swine
45. Type of sword
46. Siskel's partner
47. Brood of pheasants
48. Hindu model of ideal man
51. Suitable in the circumstances
52. La __ tar pits
53. Unstressed-stressed metrical foot
54. California wine country
58. Badly

SOLUTION ON PAGE 35





Be a Civility Advocate!

Civility Checklist

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Emma Ruth Rundle arrives in the Valley this November. (Photo by Mason Rose, provided by Bailey Sattler)

Emma Ruth Rundle brings 'These Killing Times' tour to Valley

Singer-songwriter to perform with full band in November

Emma Ruth Rundle will bring her fall North American tour to Phoenix on Nov. 29, performing with a full band at Crescent Ballroom.

The tour, which begins in November with Cinder Well supporting all dates, follows the September release of Rundle's new album, "These Killing Times."

The album will be released Sept. 18 through Rundle's own Errant Child imprint and includes the new track "God's Picture," which she describes as the record's centerpiece and thesis statement. Rundle said the song addresses climate disaster, global conflict and class while musically connecting the sparse piano-and-guitar approach of her previous album, "Engine of Hell," with the fuller arrangements of "These Killing Times." The album was recorded by longtime collaborator Sonny Diperri, whose credits include work with My Bloody Valentine, Trent Reznor and These New Puritans.

Rundle's career has moved across genres and mediums, encompassing solo albums, bands, collaborative projects and soundtrack work. She is also a multidisciplinary visual artist and released her first poetry collection, "The Bella Vista," through Unnamed Press in 2025.

For tickets, visit https://tinyurl.com/ycxc7j97.

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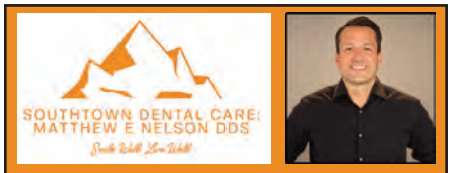

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION
PUZZLE ON PAGE 33

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