PHOENIX INDEPENDENT
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INSIDE

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Big water users to see rate hike

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Phoenix plans to raise rates on the biggest water users in the city.

While nothing is official yet, the city announced on Nov. 10 it anticipates elevating from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the city's Drought Management Plan because of an expected reduction of the city's Colorado River water.

Under Stage 2, the city plans surcharges on biggest water users for residential, commercial and industrial. Staff said it anticipates it will elevate to Stage 2 of the Drought Management Plan in January, when federally mandated reductions in Arizona, California and Nevada's water supplies kick in.

Phoenix expects a 30% reduction of its Colorado River supply in 2027 and 2028 and possibly more in 2029 and beyond. The Colorado River accounts for about 40% of the city's water supply.

"At its core, if we work together

• See **Water** Page **8**

Residents feel food pinch as holidays approach

By Jeff Wendt
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Last year it was the government shutdown that caused a lot of Valley residents to gravitate toward a local food bank for help during the holiday season.

This year, it's the loss of SNAP benefits under the "Big Beautiful Bill" and the high prices at gas pumps that are causing problems for most.

"People either aren't getting the benefits, or they are only getting partial benefits," said Jerry Brown, director of public relations for the St. Mary's Food Bank. "That brings more people to food banks, especially at St. Mary's."

Brown said they are up over last year's numbers.

"We had over 2.7 million visits last year to our food bank," Brown said. "We are

• See **Food** Page **9**



Volunteers help get turkeys together for the Phoenix Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving Dinner drive. (Submitted/Phoenix Rescue Mission)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Residents challenge data center

By Senna James
CRONKITE NEWS

PHOENIX – Ahwatukee Foothills Village is an urban neighborhood tucked in the foothills of South Mountain. It's home to family-oriented outdoor lifestyles, a quiet atmosphere and soon a 38-acre data center that's expected to use up to 257 megawatts of power.

Tanja Kotowski has lived in Ahwatukee for 11 years. Her home is decorated with toys tucked into cubbies, and framed photos with her husband and her children on the walls. Outside, yellow signs saying "Save 'Tukee Now!" are planted in her front lawn.

Menlo Digital is building a "hyperscale campus ... consisting of five buildings and a dedicated onsite substation that has the capacity to provide over 257 megawatts of total utility and 180 megawatts of critical IT load" at 4801 E. Thistle Landing Drive in Ahwatukee, according to the company's website. The data center is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of next year.

Kotowski lives three miles away from the Menlo project. She joined the Ahwatukee Community Alliance, a nonprofit, to raise concerns about how the development will affect life in Ahwatukee.

The Ahwatukee center is owned by Menlo Equities, a private real estate investment and development firm. Menlo Digital is the data center operating platform that runs the centers. Menlo Equities has 14 data centers across the country. According to its website, its data centers focus on demands of hyperscalers, AI platforms and enterprise users.



Ahwatukee resident Ana Marshall, left, speaks about her experiences with the construction of the Menlo Digital data center at a town hall with Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Eagles Community Center in Mesa. (Cronkite News/Paul Pascual)

Menlo Digital did not respond to a request for comment.

The land where the data center is being built was rezoned in 1996 by the city of Phoenix for commercial and commerce park uses.

Kotowski understands the zoning allows for development, but she said the "lack of information and transparency about it is just really concerning to me."

She said she never saw a notice regarding the construction of the center until it was being built and neighbors began protesting in front of the campus.

During a town hall Oct. 14 hosted by Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes, more than half of the attendees were residents of Ahwatukee, including Kotowski.

Concerns voiced at that meeting centered on the possibility of the data center's closed-loop water system failing, a rise in temperature in neighborhoods, noise pollution and air pollution from diesel generators that operate as backup systems.

"What brought me here today are the residents' concerns, including those of the Ahwatukee Community Alliance, that our voices really haven't been heard by the city of Phoenix," said Kathy Monk, who lives a mile away from the Menlo Digital campus. She spoke at the town hall meeting in October.

Read more online at yourvalley.net.

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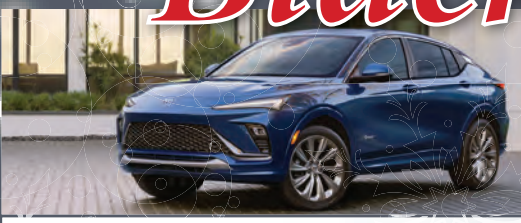

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City to resume disconnects on late water accounts

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the city of Phoenix paused its policy to shut off water for delinquent accounts.

This week, officials resumed those water shutoffs again.

There are more than 9,000 seriously delinquent accounts representing nearly $24 million in past-due balances to the city. Shutoffs for some accounts began Monday, Nov. 16. The city will only resort to shutting off water for accounts that are at least 121 days overdue and owe at least $1,000 to the city in total between their water and public works bills.

"I just want to emphasize we really want that to be the last thing we're doing is turning off a customer," Water Services Director Brandy Kelso told Phoenix City Council on Tuesday.

Kelso said the city is reaching out to delinquent account holders to offer payment plans to get them on track. The Human Services Department's Project Assist program will see if they qualify for financial assistance.

"We want to make sure that we're giving them all the tools that they can to get back into paying their bills on a regular basis," Kelso said.

District 5 Councilmember Betty Guardado said she is "very concerned" because a lot of the delinquent accounts are in her district.

"My priority is making sure families have safe water they can afford. In Maryvale and across Phoenix, people are already struggling with rising costs," Guardado said.

Guardado was concerned that some households would have been too busy to have seen the news about the city resuming water shutoffs. She asked Kelso to have her staff provide her council office a list of delinquent households that they have been able to reach and a list of those they have not been about to reach.



Phoenix Water Services Technician turns the water to a house on or off in a 2024 video produced by the city. Shutoffs are often done when a homeowner moves out of a house. On Monday, Nov. 16, the city resumed shutoffs for delinquent accounts for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. (Submitted/City of Phoenix)

Kelso said Water Services staff is attempting to reach residents by phone, email, letters in the mail and door hangars. Guardado suggested maybe adding door-to-door outreach in high delinquency neighborhoods to the outreach efforts as well.

North Mountain Park to close Dec. 1 for renovation

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department will close North Mountain Park on Tuesday, Dec. 1, to undergo long-awaited renovations that will enhance safety, accessibility, and overall visitor experience.

The park is anticipated to reopen in spring 2028.

Originally established as a city of Phoenix park in the 1970s, North Mountain Park has served generations of hikers, families and community groups.

Although it remains one of the city's most popular outdoor destinations, with Trail 44 (North Mountain Tower Road) ranking as the fourth most popular hike in Phoenix, the park has not received major improvements in more than 40 years.

Aging infrastructure, including outdated septic and plumbing systems, prompted the city to pursue a master plan to modernize the park.

The plan was developed through a community engagement process beginning in November 2022. Surveys and public meetings throughout 2022 and 2023 shaped the final design, reflecting community priorities such as increased shade, additional parking, improved restrooms, enhanced water access and larger ramadas.

Officials said in a release that the renovation will reimagine the park within its existing footprint by creating three destination areas designed to improve recreation, pedestrian safety and environmental health.

Park users can expect upgraded trails, expanded shade areas and play spaces, safer and more intuitive walking routes, modernized restrooms and amenities, restored natural landscapes and long-term infrastructure improvements that support sustainability and maintenance.

The plan also removes vehicle access from the park's west side to return the walking loop to pedestrians and restore a more natural setting.

"At North Mountain Park, we have an important opportunity to enhance one of our community's most treasured preserves," stated Jarod Rogers, Natural Resources Division deputy parks director, in a news release. "These renovations reflect the voices of our residents and our commitment to creating safe, sustainable, and welcoming outdoor spaces. When the preserve reopens, visitors will enjoy modern amenities, improved access and a refreshed environment that supports both recreation and the natural desert landscape."

The following trails will remain open around North Mountain Park during the renovation: 100, 101, 306, 60. The paved section

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The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department will close North Mountain Park on Tuesday, Dec. 1 to undergo long-awaited renovations. (Submitted/City of Phoenix)

Park

• From page 4

of Trail 44 will remain open from Seventh Street to the towers. Trail 44 can be reached from the North Mountain Visitor Center parking lot, 12950 N. Seventh Street, via Trail 100 to Trail 101.

The following trails will be fully closed for public safety:

- North Mountain Park walking loop
- All unpaved sections of Trail 44

North Mountain Visitor Center will remain open during the renovation. To enjoy hiking opportunities nearby, visitors are encouraged to explore Shaw Butte, Lookout and Shadow Mountain, Dreamy Draw and Piestewa Peak.

Construction updates and reopening information will be shared as the project progresses at phoenix.gov/parks.

City updates workforce strategy to include AI

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Phoenix is updating its plan to support the local workforce.

The plan includes have a new federal workforce program that features training workers on artificial intelligence tools and plans for Phoenix's workforce training hub that is under construction.

A city council subcommittee on Nov. 10 approved a new plan from the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board, which is under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The update to the plan adds up-to-date workforce data and strategizes around the regions most in-demand jobs and industries accordingly.

"For me, this is about helping people get good jobs that pay enough to support a family with benefits and opportunities to grow," said District 5 Councilmember Betty Guardado during the Nov. 10 Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee meeting.

While most sections of the 176-page plan are updated from the last iteration, two sections were added. One details the role of Innovation 27, a workforce training and business hub under construction in a former Kmart building near Interstate 17 and Northern Avenue.

The other section is for a federal program that was added in 2025 called America's Talent Strategy. The program is a federal workforce development framework that aligns education and training with the needs of employers, particularly in an economy increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence.

The strategy focuses on preparing workers for high-demand jobs and enhancing the overall workforce.

Top 5 industries in the city of Phoenix:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Advanced Business Services
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Construction
- Manufacturing

The plan also outlines entry-level jobs in those industries, as well as the degrees or certificates required for those positions.

"In Maryvale and across Phoenix, we have hardworking people ready to learn new skills," Guardado said. "We need to make sure they know about these programs and access them, including residents who face language, transportation or child care barriers."

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Workforce

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While she supports the plan, Guardado said the workforce data that follows will be the real test.

"As we put this plan into action, I want us to measure success by whether people find stable jobs, earn better wages, and build a better future for their families," she said.

Ground stop highlights Sky Harbor shortages

By Eileen Mamaghani and Ellis Preston
CRONKITE NEWS



An airplane flies past the air traffic control tower at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Nov. 8, 2025, in Phoenix. (Associated Press/Ross D. Franklin)

WASHINGTON – The ground stop Nov. 13 that halted flights nationwide did not result from the chronic shortage of air traffic controllers. But managing the roughly 3,500 planes in the air did test an understaffed system that relies on controller overtime to meet operational demand.

At Phoenix Sky Harbor, the Federal Aviation Administration has blamed a number of incidents in recent months on the staffing shortages, including a ground stop and flight delays within a week last month.

Despite shortages in Phoenix and around the country, the rare and potentially chaotic nationwide ground stop was executed smoothly.

"The controllers were able to safely land more than 3,000 flights in a short period of time," said Joel Ortiz, who represents air traffic controllers in Arizona and other states as regional vice president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

The shortage at the Phoenix Air Traffic Control Tower, which manages takeoffs, landings and aircraft on the ground, is worse than average: 25% below full staffing, according to data released in June in the FAA's Air Traffic Controller workforce Plan for 2026 to 2028.

The data shows that nearly 75% of facilities nationwide have fewer certified professional controllers than the FAA wants, including all but one of the 17 biggest airport control towers. Only four have a bigger gap than Phoenix between full and actual staffing. The worst is Newark, with a 37% shortage.

The FAA lowered its full staffing targets in May. Using the previous targets, the overall national shortage would be far worse.

Phoenix Terminal Radar Approach Control, which manages airspace near the airport, has a 17% controller shortage — better than average in the TRACON category; Seattle tops that list with a 40% shortage.

Sky Harbor handles more passengers than all but a dozen other U.S. airports. Understaffing often means six-day work weeks, Ortiz said, and "when you're getting four days off a month, that starts to wear on anybody."

The FAA said the ground stop was unrelated to staffing shortages. But the agency has linked controller shortages in Phoenix — and elsewhere — to flight delays and temporary halts to operations.

On Oct. 16, Sky Harbor had to limit the rate of planes coming into the airport due to low staffing combined with low visibility, according to an advisory issued from the FAA.

Six days earlier, on Oct. 10, the FAA issued a ground stop that it also attributed to staffing issues.

"Having ground delays because of personnel shortages," said Cary Grant, a professor at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott campus. "That doesn't happen very often."

The back-to-back staffing problems reminded him of shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

As of Sept. 30, the FAA had 11,027 certified controllers plus about 4,000 in training.

In May, the FAA cut its full staffing target for air traffic controllers from 14,633 to 12,563. The agency set hiring targets of 2,200 trainees in fiscal 2026, 2,300 in 2027 and 2,400 in 2028. It ultimately hired 2,235 in fiscal 2026.

The FAA acknowledges the shortages but has said a revised staffing model, improved scheduling and modernization will allow it to use controllers more efficiently.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association has long argued that staffing is too low. Nearly a year before the FAA lowered the target headcount, the union said 3,800 more controllers were needed to adequately staff FAA facilities.

The number of controllers at the end of 2025 — 13,164, including trainees — was 6% smaller than a decade earlier while the number of flights rose 10% through 2024, according to a December 2025 report by the Government Accountability Office.

On Nov. 13, 234 departing flights were cancelled at Sky Harbor and 161 were delayed, according to Flight Aware, a flight tracking platform. The FAA reported 12,462 flight cancellations nationally, including 9,082 by major airlines.

The FAA ordered a 90-minute nationwide ground stop in January 2023 when its system for distributing critical safety notices to pilots failed. Before that, the last one was after the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackings.

Ortiz said such incidents expose strains in the system.

"There can be a lot of gridlock at the airport, a lot of canceled flights, and then it kind of snowballs for the next week," he said.

Phoenix Sky Harbor declined to respond to a request to discuss the impacts of controller shortages.

The GAO report attributes the shortages of air traffic controllers to a number of factors, including the rigorous aptitude requirements and the fact that hiring and training can take up to six years.

The FAA has blamed the nationwide flight grounding on problems with its aging telecommunications network. One suspect was a new router installed that day in Arkansas.

Ortiz called the technology upgrades "long overdue" but said the combination of outdated equipment and short staffing makes problems more likely.

"Accidents can occur and it can cost people's lives," he said. "Luckily, that was not the case with what happened on Friday, but that is the ultimate consequence."

Federal court allows car sleeping in Arizona town

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — A Sedona woman with anxiety issues will get a chance to prove she's entitled to sleep in her car despite a city ordinance that makes it a crime.

In a new ruling Thursday, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said it was wrong for a trial judge to throw out a claim by Sabrina Beram that her condition is a disability as defined by federal law. The court said that means she can argue the city must provide a "reasonable accommodation" — even if it does mean she is technically breaking the law.

Thursday's decision is significant because the 9th Circuit sets precedent for Arizona. And that could result in cities around the state being unable to enforce similar laws in these kinds of situations.

The case stems from a claim by Beram that she has a severe, chronic, obsessive-compulsive anxiety that can cause her to believe her apartment is unclean.

That, according to court records, can require her to take hours to clean to make the conditions "tolerable." But when it's so late she would not have time to sleep, Beram said sleeps in her car in the parking lot of her apartment complex or, when space is unavailable, other public and private spaces in Sedona.

Only thing is that city ordinance makes sleeping in a car a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a $2,500 fine. And since she has now been warned twice — a precursor under the ordinance before criminal penalties can be imposed — Beram sent a letter to the city asking to be granted an exception.



The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled a Sedona woman with anxiety issues will get a chance to prove she's entitled to sleep in her car despite a city ordinance that makes it a crime. (Associated Press/Jeff Chiu)

When that was denied, she had Community Legal Services file suit in federal court on her behalf to get an exception.

Part of that was against her landlord who agreed to let her sleep in her car. But that agreement also said it could be rescinded if the city threatened the landlord.

Appellate Judge Roopali Desai, writing for the three-judge panel, said federal law is clear.

"A public entity's failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability is discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act," she wrote. The only exception is if making such an accommodation "would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity."

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Water

• From page 1

on these issues, we can have the future that we want here in Phoenix despite the challenges we're facing on the Colorado River," Water Resources Management Advisor Maxwell Wilson said during Tuesday's council meeting.

Under Stage 2 of the Drought Management Plan, the city plans to reduce its water use by 10% and hopes residents will voluntarily decrease their use by 5%.

"Phoenix has a plan, and everyone has a role to play," said Mayor Kate Gallego.

That will largely be through educational efforts to encourage efficient water use. The city also plans to offer cash incentives for things such as efficient water use tools, replacing grass turf or fixing leaks.

The city will also offer every resident a free consultation with a water resource specialist on city staff to visit their home and let them know how they can more efficiently use water and save on their water bill.

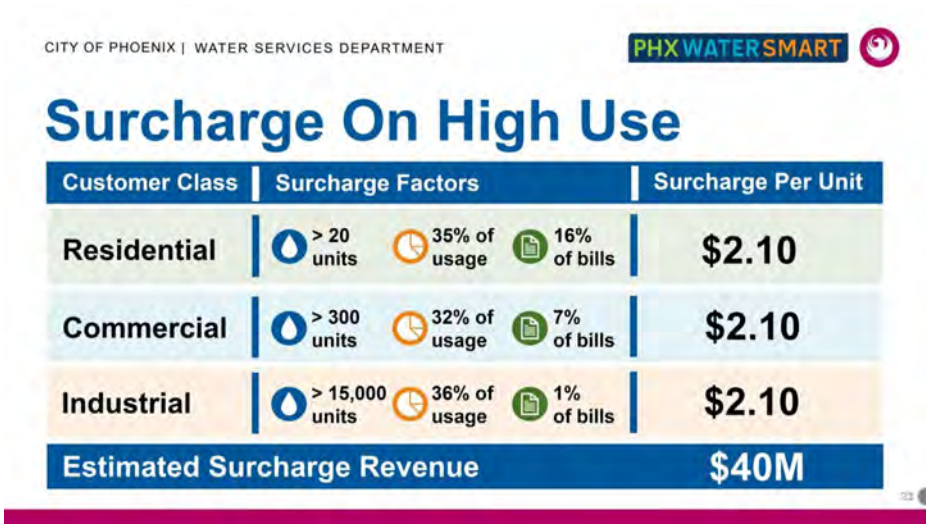
"It goes without saying that protecting our water future and supporting our communities must go hand-in-hand," said Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington.

Councilmember Betty Guardado appreciated the city plans to take a larger reduction than it will ask of its residents.

"The city needs to lead by example," she said. "If we ask families and businesses to conserve, we should show them how we are reducing water use in our own buildings, parks and operations, which I know that we're already doing."

Water rate surcharge

A unit of water for city's water bills is 748 gallons per month.



Top: The plans for surcharges for the highest water users in Phoenix. One unit is 748 gallons. (Phoenix)
Bottom: City of Phoenix Water Services staff install part of the Drought Pipeline Project, which helps deliver water delivered to SRP to water users in north Phoenix to ensure redundancy of water supplies. (Phoenix)



The city plans to add a per-unit surcharge of $2.10 beyond the threshold for each category of residential, commercial and industrial.

Residential: 20 units, accounts for 35% of usage, applies to 16% of bills Commercial: 300 units, accounts for 32% of usage, applies to 7% of bills Industrial: 15,000 units, accounts for 36% of usage, applies to 1% of bills

Water Services Director Brandy Kelso said the median residential use is about 11 units.

The surcharges are expected to generate $40 million in revenue for the city, which will be used to fund efficiency checkups and incentive programs, as well as potentially purchasing water rights from other Arizona cities if needed.

Resident Tammy Weaver spoke during the meeting's public comment portion, saying the city has approved large industrial users like Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. despite a long-looming water shortage on the Colorado River.

Weaver said her HOA calculated the surcharge would cost an additional $30,000 per year.

"You made your commitments to large industrial users. You are responsible for the overallocation. You invited the big water users to dinner. Please don't hand residents the check," Weaver said.

Kelso clarified later in the meeting that though a smaller percentage of industrial users than residential would be projected to face a surcharge, the city was aiming for the surcharge to effect about a third of the total water use in each category.

Incentives

Under Stage 2, the city would increase its incentive to replace grass turf from $2 to $4 per square foot. It would increase the incentive to add a smart irrigation controller from $75 to $150, which will cover most of the cost of a controller, Kelso said. The city would also add a new incentive of $100 to repair a leak, with a limit of one per year.

Wilson said many city staff members and some members of council have had a city water resource specialist come to their house to perform the free efficiency check.

"Having somebody come out to your house and just show you directly how to save water right there in your house in real time is a very helpful way to be able to identify those savings," he said.

Upon council direction, staff agreed to consider incentives for things like water efficiency or replacing toilets for water-efficient toilets to HOAs and small businesses as well as residential users. It will also explore reducing hurdles for HOAs to replace large areas of grass turf.

Food

• From page 1

anticipating seeing our numbers being 10-15% higher over last year."

Brown said for the first time, his organization is seeing more seniors on fixed incomes coming to the food bank.

"Between the folks who are receiving less SNAP benefits, to seniors on fixed incomes, and with gas prices becoming the final straw for some people, we are seeing a rush of people who have never come to the food bank before," Brown said.

For the Phoenix Rescue Mission, this is their first effort at a full-scale Thanksgiving offering.

According to Volunteer Engagement Manager Bri Sanborn, the organization started on a smaller scale last year.

"While we have been doing this for a few years, we started a small scale effort last year," Sanborn said. "We saw that the need to serve was there. Last year we kind of put something together at the last minute and we weren't able to serve people in the way that we wanted to."

Sanborn said her organization saw an increase in families showing up at the Phoenix Rescue Mission during the summer and school breaks.

"More and more we saw a rise in prices for existing families," Sanborn said. "That is why we are definitely meeting and exceeding our goals, because we are seeing the need."

Brown said the food bank is about 9,000 turkeys short of reaching its goal to make sure that 20,000 Thanksgiving meals are provided to those who are in need this season.

St. Mary's has its upcoming "Super Saturday" Turkey Drive 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 21. at 21 different Albertsons and Safeway locations across the Valley and the two St. Mary's Food Bank locations. Food bank officials hope to reach its turkey goal with this drive.

Albertsons and Safeway will help St. Mary's reach its goal by matching the first 250 turkeys donated during Super Saturday.

"Safeway is proud to be the sponsor and host of Super Saturday and to match the first 250 turkeys donated to help all our neighbors in need," said Nancy Keane with Albertsons Safeway. "We invite everyone to come out and pick up a turkey and a few extra items to make the Thanksgiving holiday special for all Arizonans."



The annual St. Mary's Food Bank "Super Saturday" Turkey Drive will take place Nov. 21 at 23 Albertsons, Safeway and St. Mary's Food Bank locations across the Valley. (Submitted/St. Mary's Food Bank)

If people can't donate turkeys to the food bank, Brown stressed that a $25 donation to their food bank will provide for a complete Thanksgiving meal for someone in need.

"We have a very giving community in Phoenix," Brown said. "We're hoping to get there this year, even though it's getting later in the game."

Brown said they made a difference this year at the Arizona State Fair, collecting 71,000 pounds of food versus only 48,000 last year.

"Part of that reason was that we were in the 100s for a high the first few weeks of October last year," Brown said. "The cooler temperatures this year did make a difference, but we also lost some time at the end of October with the rains."

Sanborn is thankful to those to have helped out with the Phoenix Rescue Mission.

"We are very grateful to our partners who help donate financially," Sanborn said. "Each meal costs about $55 for us, so we are grateful to be in relationships with other organizations who help us out to be prepared."

Brown also said people can use the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit to help out St. Mary's. Taxpayers can claim a dollar-for-dollar deduction on their state tax liability for a donation made to a certified qualifying charitable organization, like St. Mary's Food Bank.

The contribution limits are $506 for a single, head of household or married filing separately individual, or $1,009 for married filing jointly.

Brown has concern for what happens in the future.

"Getting no help from the government would be a big concern," Brown said. "Especially for our long-term viability."

PHOENIX BUSINESS

MORE ONLINE
See more Business news at yourvalley.net.

Phoenix plans to put land near Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport up for sale

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Phoenix plans to put land near Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport up for sale.

The Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee on Nov. 10 approved the Aviation Department to purchase property in one area near the airport and sell another portion of property.

Phoenix Economic Program Manager Thomas Sawyer said the difference was that in the area southwest of 11th and Grant streets, the city has enough property to hope to gain more and eventually prep the area for a larger development.

In the area southwest of Eighth Place and Sherman Street, however, that is not coming to fruition.

"As you see from the ownership map, this area continues to face major development challenges. One of those is that the land pattern is highly fragmented here," Sawyer said.

There are about 40 different private property owners in the broader area.

"Together these factors make it very difficult to get that larger assemblage and that larger redevelopment in the area without kind of our continual presence and public action," Sawyer said.

The city is selling nine somewhat disjointed parcels as one package. The properties, totaling 52,831 square feet, will be marketed and sold at the appraised value. The buyer will be responsible for all closing costs.



This map shows the nine city-owned parcels southwest of Eighth Place and Sherman Street the city plans to put up for sale. It hopes to have a mix of industrial and commercial uses on the site. (City of Phoenix)

"(It will) create an opportunity for a future developer to establish a visible redevelopment project along that artillery road, hopefully stemming future development to the east," Sawyer said.

While the current A-2 industrial zoning is appropriate under the airport's Land Reuse Strategy, the strategy pushes for a mixed-use development in the area, Sawyer said.

District 1 Councilmember Ann O'Brien clarified that does not mean residential, which is typically considered incompatible with an airport's noise and can result in noise complaints from residents. Sawyer said that the mix of uses would be between industrial and commercial. A hotel could be appropriate but no long-term residential uses.

Three Phoenix restaurants on OpenTable's Top 100 list

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Three Phoenix restaurants were featured on OpenTable's Top 100 Restaurants in America for 2026.

Two Scottsdale restaurants also made the list, making it five total in the Valley and Arizona.

The online restaurant reservation service released the list earlier this month. Restaurants in their Top 100 were not ranked 1-100.

Arizona restaurants in Top 100

Phoenix

- Christopher's at Wrigley Mansion
- Steak 44
- Uppercut

Scottsdale

- Cafe Monarch
- Ocean 44

The Top 100 list is meant to reflect the restaurants diners

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Dining
• From page 10

sought out and loved this year. It was generated from more than 11 million reviews from verified OpenTable diners and dining metrics.

East Phoenix landmark office space sold for $32M

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Concord Place, one of Phoenix's most distinctive office properties, has been sold, according to a news release.

The 135,841-square-foot, six-story property at 2999 N. 44th St. was sold for $32 million by Cushman & Wakefield to Mustang Stampede Two LLC.

The building is defined by a patinated copper dome, all-stone facade, expansive patios and balconies, and a 12,800-square-foot koi pond below the balconies.

Built in 1989 and located in the Arcadia and 44th Street corridor, Concord Place was designed with smaller tenants in mind, with suites range from roughly 900–4,500 square feet. Vacancy in the property is currently 8.4%



Steak 44, 5101 N. 44th St. in Phoenix. (Submitted by OpenTable)



From left, Pete Cosentino, president of CR Fitness Holdings LLC; Chris Adams, president of Blue Ridge Fitness Holdings LLC; Tony Scrimale, CEO of CR Fitness Holdings; Josh Rider, president of Southwest Fitness Holdings LLC. (Submitted by Crunch Fitness)

New Crunch Fitness now open in Arcadia, one of 20 planned in Phoenix

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

PHOENIX — A new Crunch Fitness is now open in east Phoenix, marking its first of 20 planned clubs coming to Phoenix by the end of 2027.

The new location, a $5 million, 36,500-square-foot fitness center, is at 4533 E. Thomas Road, inside Phoenix's Arcadia Crossing shopping center. The grand opening was on Saturday, Oct. 31.

In addition to standard hours, the club offers 24 hours of access, five days a week. The opening was projected to create more than 70 local jobs across personal training, group fitness, sales, operations, member services and club leadership.

Memberships start at $9.99 per month. Visit crunchcarcadia.com for information.



Concord Place, located at 2999 N. 44th Street was sold for $32 million by Cushman & Wakefield to Mustang Stampede Two, LLC. (Submitted photo/Cushman & Wakefield)

Arizona makes case for proposed Space Academy

By Howard Fischer
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Arizona is laying out its claim of why it should be the home of the yet-to-be-created Space Academy.

In new filings Monday with NASA, a committee put together by Gov. Katie Hobbs maintains Arizona has what the federal government says it needs to "train America's next generation of explorers and innovators." That ranges from the University of Arizona being rated as the best public university in the U.S. for space science to Flagstaff being designated an International Dark Sky City. There's also the fact that astronauts trained in Arizona for the moon landing.

What was sent to NASA, however, is more than just an idea pitch.

The proposal envisions an interim campus located next to Arizona State University in Tempe that could be ready in 2028 and accommodate the initial group of 300 cadets, with the possibility of growing to more than 1,200.

But Arizona is offering NASA two long-term options for a campus that eventually would support 4,000 — what the agency says is the ultimate need.

One would be adjacent to ASU's Polytechnic campus and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. Ground could be broken in 2027 and operational by 2031.

The other is to construct a permanent campus in south Flagstaff near the Pulliam Airport. And that places it within reach of not just Northern Arizona University but also Lowell Observatory and the U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station. It, too, would be ready by 2031.



Rendering of the proposed Space Academy campus from submission Monday by Arizona to NASA. (State of Arizona)

Under the request for submissions, it is the obligation of the state to provide at least 300 acres.

But Arizona has competition. A lot of it.

Pennsylvania also met Monday's NASA deadline, proposing to convert the now-closed Pittsburgh Technical College into the Space Academy. And that site has the benefit of already having dormitories.

Maryland is offering an interim campus at the University of Maryland, but with a plan to set up shop permanently near NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt.

Louisiana wants to host the planned facility at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. And there also are offers from Texas to be anchored by the Johnson Space Center, from Ohio to be located near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and from Colorado, which already has the Air Force Academy, to set it up in Colorado Springs.

Hobbs — and a commission she put together to come up with a bid — contend there are plenty of reasons for NASA to choose Arizona. And much of it revolves around academics.

For example, the proposal notes that ASU has the largest engineering school in the nation.

It also cites UofA's rating by U.S. News in space science, the fact the school has the largest thermal vacuum chamber at any university in the world where spacecraft can be tested, that it makes the largest telescope mirrors in the world, and that the National Science Foundation lists the school as No. 2 in the nation for astronomy and astrophysics research spending.

The applications also mentions that Fort Huachuca is the largest unmanned aircraft systems training facility in the world and that Luke Air Force Base has the largest fighter wing in the world.

What each state has to offer appears to be critical to NASA's decision.

"The location of the U.S. Space Academy is foundational to its success," Matt Anderson, deputy administrator of the presidential commission set up to find a site, said when the panel was formed.

The whole process has been on a fast track.

It was only in August that President Trump signed an executive order to establish the Space Academy.

According to the White House, it is to be modeled similarly to traditional military service academies like West Point. And like those academies, it would provide a tuition-free, multiyear program, which combines technical education and leadership training with a post-graduation obligation to NASA or government civil service.

GOP treasurer candidate files defamation suit

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — The unsuccessful Republican candidate for treasurer is suing the defeated GOP contender for schools chief over what he says are lies told to others during the campaign about his sex life.

Elijah Norton claims in legal papers filed in Maricopa County Superior Court that Kimberly Yee spread claims that he tried to bribe her, had a boyfriend who wore women's clothes, had a sexual affair with a married male personal assistant, and threatened her with physical harm. None of that, Norton said, is true.


Kimberly Yee

But Norton wants more than a finding by a court that he was defamed. He also wants more than $2.6 million.

Norton told Capitol Media Services that's the amount he spent in a contested Republican primary where he faced off against Katherine Haley. And Yee has acknowledged that she recruited Haley to enter the race.

There was no immediate response from Yee.

According to the lawsuit, the dispute between Norton and Yee dates to 2023 when he was treasurer of the Arizona Republican Party and when he said he was contemplating a run for treasurer, a position then held by Yee.

Norton said Yee sought — and he provided — more than $100,000 to a "victory fund" he thought was going to help all GOP candidates. As it turned out, he said, it was for her own political organization.

He formally announced his bid for treasurer in April 2025. And that, the lawsuit says, was when Yee started "publicizing lies about Norton's personal and professional dealings" to find a Republican to challenge him in the primary.


Elijah Norton

Norton also said Yee claimed to others that Norton had tried to bribe her.

But much of the lawsuit is based on statements Yee is accused of making to several people claiming Norton has a "boyfriend" who wears women's clothes. And Norton said others associated with Yee and in the Haley campaign made similar comments as well as accused him of having a sexual affair with a married personal aide.

And the lawsuit also says Yee, speaking to a Republican precinct official, falsely told that person Norton "threatened to harm me physically."

All of this, the lawsuit says, are false and "publicly placed Norton in a false light" in a manner that would be "highly offensive" to someone like Norton running for statewide office.

The lawsuit includes the claim the actions by Yee were done "with the subjective knowledge that it was false or with a reckless disregard for its truth or falsity."

That part of the claim is legally significant.

Read more online at yourvalley.net

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.

OPINIONS WITH CIVILITY

TAKE THE PLEDGE

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

YOUR OPINION

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

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

SPEAK UP

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

CORRECTIONS

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

Learn about light rail extension into West Valley

Light rail is coming to west Phoenix!

Valley Metro and the city invite you to learn more and provide feedback at upcoming open houses. The next in-person meeting is 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Maryvale Community Center, 4420 N. 51st Ave. in Phoenix.

The West Phoenix Light Rail Extension is a 10-mile connection designed to bring more convenient, affordable and reliable transit west.

The proposed route would connect neighborhoods, businesses and Desert Sky Transit Center to the existing Valley Metro rail system, providing better access to jobs, education, health care and other key destinations.

The city will continue working with the community to shape station locations, connections and other project details.

Laura Pastor
PHOENIX

Laura Pastor represents District 4 on the Phoenix City Council. This was distributed as part of her newsletter.

Housing essential for economic development

Housing is not separate from economic development. Housing is a key part of economic development.

As Phoenix continues to grow, we must be intentional about ensuring that housing is part of our economic-development strategy. That means expanding affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, supporting workforce housing and making investments that allow families to live, work and thrive in our city. A strong economy depends on our ability to create opportunities while ensuring that everyone can afford to call Phoenix home.

I was honored to join leaders from across Arizona at Phoenix: The Future Works Here forum, hosted by The Wall Street Journal and Philip Morris International. During the discussion, I emphasized the importance of connecting housing policy, workforce growth and strategic investments to sustain Phoenix's economic momentum. Achieving that vision requires collaboration and innovation across the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Thank you to The Wall Street Journal, PMI, Arizona State University, the Arizona Commerce Authority and my fellow panelists for helping advance this important conversation about the future of Phoenix.

Kesha Hodge Washington
PHOENIX

The author is vice mayor and represents District 8 on the Phoenix City Council.

ATTENTION PLEASE

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

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

Why Phoenix is resuming water-service disconnections

Beginning Nov. 1, Phoenix resumed water-service disconnections for customers with seriously delinquent city-services accounts.

Water shutoffs were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, and delinquent balances have continued to grow. More than 9,000 accounts currently carry nearly $24 million in past-due balances for water, wastewater and trash services.

Collecting these payments helps maintain the financial stability of our water utility.

The city is taking a phased approach, with notices and opportunities for customers to make payment arrangements or seek assistance before service is interrupted.

If you know someone who's behind on their bill, please tell them to contact Phoenix Water Services at 602-262-6251 during regular business hours to make a payment.

If they need to make payment arrangement, they can email cityservicesbills@phoenix.gov with their information. Income-qualified households experiencing financial hardship may also be eligible for Project Assist and other programs.

The city Human Services Department is offering SNAP navigation support to help residents apply for SNAP benefits and comply with requirements.

The initiative aims to reduce benefit loss by increasing successful submissions. Services include assistance with applications, renewals and work requirement compliance. Go to phoenix.gov/SNAPNav for assistance.

Phoenix does not determine eligibility, approve benefits or administer SNAP. All applications and renewals are processed by the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Ann O'Brien
PHOENIX

The author represents District 1 on the Phoenix City Council.

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Opinions

• From page 14

Coyote protection group already exists

I read with great interest your article, "Surprise woman wants Grand solution to coyote problem," about the coyote protection program. Actually, the founder of such a group is Kathy Schoener.

As far back as 2.5 years ago, she was instrumental in not only protecting them, but she also went so far as to medicate them using ground beef with the appropriate meds for diseases such as mange.

Kathy has followed small coyote groups who appeared to be in serious need of medical help, not just in our own community, but neighborhoods that are several miles away.

She is very dedicated to this cause and deserves some credit and recognition. I am quite impressed with her devotion to these animals.

Lynne Plaxton
SURPRISE

Desert Hills rural character at stake if state trust land sold

Desert Hills remains among the North Valley's few communities where open desert, horse properties and rural living define the landscape.

At the heart of it lies The Square. From Seventh Avenue to Seventh Street, bounded by Joy Ranch Road and Cloud Road, it is a square mile of Arizona State Trust Land enjoyed by countless hikers and trail riders every day.

Unlike designated parks, state trust land may eventually be sold for development.

As an attorney whose practice includes equine law, land use and business matters, and as a former Cave Creek vice mayor, I understand the intersection of property rights, responsible development and preservation of Arizona's rural heritage.

Preserving The Square at the heart of our community is achievable. My late mentor, Gary Birnbaum, helped to preserve Spur Cross Ranch in 2001. More recently, my colleague, Maricopa County Supervisor Tom Galvin, helped advance efforts to protect additional land adjacent to that preserve.

Arizona law provides a process for acquiring State Trust Land for conservation while compensating trust beneficiaries.

I urge Maricopa County, the Arizona Legislature and the State Land Department to work together to preserve The Square and incorporate it into the county park system. I urge you to show your support by adding your name to petitions aimed at keeping The Square untamed for future generations.

More than 230 residents signed our petition in its first 24 hours. Please add your voice and share it with neighbors — presrvethesquare.com.

Once our open space disappears, we cannot bring it back.

Adam M. Trenk
CAVE CREEK

The author is an attorney, business owner, former Cave Creek vice mayor and Scottsdale Community College Equine Science Program advisory board chair.

West Valley Symphony thanks patrons, donors

The West Valley Symphony would like to thank residents for their continued support, for attending our concerts and for their commitment to live orchestral music, which helps sustain an important part of our community's cultural life.

The Phoenix Symphony's season had been suspended. This is a profound cultural loss for the Valley. Our hearts go out to its musicians, staff and audiences, and to everyone affected by the absence of these performances. We hope its music will soon return to the stage.

We also recognize that this news may raise questions about the health of other arts organizations. We want to reassure everyone that the West Valley Symphony is financially sound.

We have no debt, and we maintain adequate cash reserves and investments to support our financial health for the foreseeable future. Careful stewardship and responsible planning remain central to our work.

Continued community support by ticket holders, donors and advocates helps make that stability possible. It allows us to bring exceptional musicians and inspiring performances to the West Valley while planning confidently for the years ahead.

We thank everyone for the trust they place in us and for making live symphonic music part of their lives. We look forward to welcoming patrons to our next concert and to sharing the joy of music together.

Kevin Perry
SURPRISE

The author is president of the West Valley Symphony. He wrote this on behalf of its Board of Trustees.

Reminder to pedestrians: Use sidewalks

Arizona's glorious weather has finally returned, after a long, blazing summer. And with this nice weather, many of our seasonal guests have returned, too.

As a result, we've seen many, many people walking around getting their health steps in, walking their animals, getting fresh air but it's where some are walking that is disturbing.

Sun City West has spent millions of dollars on making sure our sidewalks are free of cracks and chips, and I'm sure they pride themselves of that, as they should.

In fact, in 2025, they spent even more money redoing the corners, installing what's called "detectable dome warning tiles" or "truncated domes" to warn people of corners.

But many people are not using those nice sidewalks, opting to walk in the street instead. Why on Earth would anyone take the risk of getting hit by a golf cart or automobile by walking in the street?

We've lived here 2 1/2 years now and have seen it every year.

Please folks, this is a safety issue. Please use the sidewalks when you walk around our fine neighborhoods and not take the risk of getting hit by walking in the street.

Bruce Arnold
SUN CITY WEST

You can help your neighbor

How can more than 4,200 Sun City residents be living below the poverty level? That's $15,960 per year for a single person and $21,640 a year for a couple.

The causes are familiar: unforeseen medical bills, retirement income that loses purchasing power to inflation (an annuity pension is halved in value in 25 years), and the sudden loss of a spouse's pension or Social Security benefit.

One of the common scenarios we see at Sun City Community Assistance Network — Sun City CAN — is a couple who retired on two Social Security checks and a pension check. When a spouse passes away, the household often loses the pension and one Social Security payment, leaving the surviving spouse financially vulnerable without enough income to live on.

Sun City CAN directs all of its resources to helping the 4,200-plus residents in need.

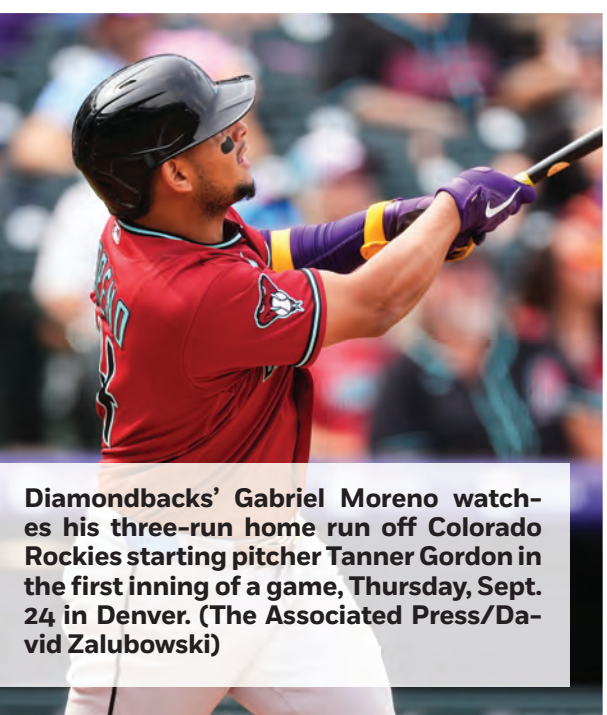
Residents can support this work by volunteering a few hours a month, joining our board or by making a financial contribution at suncitycan.org or by calling our office at 623-933-7530.

Tom DeVries
SUN CITY

SPORTS NEWS

MORE ONLINE
See more sports news at yourvalley.net.

Gabriel Moreno becomes first Diamondback catcher to win Silver Slugger



Diamondbacks' Gabriel Moreno watches his three-run home run off Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Tanner Gordon in the first inning of a game, Thursday, Sept. 24 in Denver. (The Associated Press/David Zalubowski)

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Gabriel Moreno on Tuesday became the first Arizona Diamondback catcher to win a Silver Slugger award.

Moreno's stellar season included a National League batting title. He was just the fourth catcher in major league history to do so.

He also becomes just the third Diamondback to win a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger in the same season, joining first baseman Paul Goldschmidt (2013, '15, '17) and pitcher Zack Greinke (2019).

Moreno beat out his fellow finalist, Hunter Goodman from the Rockies, who won the Silver Slugger in 2025.

It was a battle of contact versus power between the two. Moreno hit a league-high .311 with 16 home runs while Goodman hit .245 with 41 home runs, third in the NL. Two stats that try to encapsulate a hitter's full offensive production favor Moreno: he leads in OPS .874 to .839 and offensive WAR 5.3 to 2.7.

It was a career offensive year for Moreno in his age 26 season, posting career highs in every major statistical category. It was also his healthiest year. He played 130 games compared with an average of 97 the prior three seasons.

Moreno's teammate Corbin Carroll was also a finalist for a Silver Slugger after having won a Gold Glove earlier in the offseason. However, the Cubs' Pete Crow-Armstrong, the Nationals' James Wood and the Brewers' Jackson Chourio won those awards.

The only positions left where the Diamondbacks have never won a Silver Slugger are third base and two added in recent years for the NL: designated hitter and utility.

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.

Following a slow start, there is reason to wonder if the Suns' offseason moves are paying off

By Ethan Kinney
CRONKITE NEWS

PHOENIX — So far this season, there have been more than 2,000 four-man lineup combinations in the NBA, according to databallr.com, an NBA and WNBA analytics site.

One of the worst blends of them all, at least in the early going this season, has been the Suns' group of Devin Booker, Jalen Green, Dillon Brooks and Miles Bridges, who have unceremoniously compiled a stat no team wants attached to its starting lineup.

Together, the four are a minus-21.8 per 100 possessions this season as of Wednesday afternoon. That means that in the minutes they share the court, the Suns are getting outscored by almost 22 points.

The NBA media landscape was particularly critical of the Suns' offseason moves following last season when Phoenix surprisingly made the playoffs after most preseason power rankings projected the Suns as an NBA draft lottery team.

This season, with the Suns taking a 6-7 record into Wednesday's game against the Sacramento Kings, those offseason concerns are looking valid.

Bleacher Report's Grant Hughes gave the Suns a D+ after he evaluated every NBA team's offseason on a report card-style grading scale. He stated that the expensive price the Suns paid to acquire Bridges, along with a clunky roster, were the primary reasons for the low grade.

When Phoenix completed the trade to send Grayson Allen, Royce O'Neale and a 2033 unprotected first-round pick to the Charlotte Hornets for Bridges, a 2029 first-round pick and a 2027

• See **Suns** Page **18**

Notre Dame Prep claims first 5A volleyball title

By Brittany Bowyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

PHOENIX — Notre Dame Prep volleyball put a bow on an outstanding 2026 season by bringing home the 5A state championship trophy on Saturday night.

The top-ranked Saints were able to sweep reigning champion and No. 3 seed Chaparral in front of a packed crowd at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

For the Saints, they couldn't believe the moment they'd worked so hard for was finally theirs to cherish.

"It's just amazing," Coach Alexandra Sandoval said. "This is such a big deal for them. They've worked so hard, and it's such a deserving moment for them. We're just so happy for them that they get to experience this."

It is the school's fourth volleyball title, and first since the 4A crown in 2021.

"It feels so surreal," senior Lucy Solorzano said. "Every year it's the same goal, the state championship, but you don't know truly how much it means and what it feels like until you get there, and especially until you win. It's genuinely just the most surreal, unbelievable feeling ever, and it's amazing. I love every second of it."

The Saints knew it was going to be a battle, but they were prepared. The two schools faced off twice earlier in the season with Notre Dame Prep getting the upper hand both times.

"I think for us, obviously going in 2-0, we are going in confident," Sandoval said. "We know exactly what we're doing, we know what we're capable of. We always have to expect our opponent, no matter who they are, to make changes, which they did. But for us, when you see a team three times, you're also very comfortable and kind of learn their players a little bit more."





Left: Senior Lucy Solorzano was given the MVP award following her team's championship game win. (AZ Newsmedia/Chandler Parkinson)

Below: Senior Lucy Solorzano goes for a kill against Chaparral at the 5A State Championships on Saturday, Nov.14, 2026. (AZ Newsmedia/ Chandler Parkinson)

Set one got underway with the top seed finding a quick rhythm. Following a kill from Lucy Solorzano and an ace from junior Kenzie Schwab, NDP was up 8-3 and Chaparral called a time out.

Notre Dame Prep was able to continue building on the lead, with Solorzano exploding for two more kills and an ace to make it 14-6.

Chaparral called another timeout at this point to try to avoid the Saints pulling away any further, but it wouldn't be until the Saints built a 20-12 lead that the Firebirds would start to rally.

Starting with a serve out of bounds, the Firebirds started to ascend from the hole they were in.

NDP was able to take a 24-17 lead, but struggled to close out the first set, allowing Chaparral to score three straight. The Saints called a timeout to try to get the final point, but the Firebirds were determined to make a comeback.

After the time out, Chaparral notched a kill from junior Morgan Thorne, a point from a ball hit out of bounds and an ace from sophomore Sarah Hodgson to cut the lead to 24-23 and force the Saints into using another timeout.

Chaparral was able to tie things at 24 with a kill from freshman Ellie Milton. However, Notre Dame Prep found the spark they needed behind senior Aubrey Stevens, who got the kill to make it 25-24 before a violation by the Firebirds would give the Saints the set point.

Taking set one 26-24, the Saints were up 1-0.

Chaparral grabbed a second set lead, but NDP came back and tie things at five off a tandem block from senior Elizabeth Hackleman and sophomore Kiley Hail. A ball hit out of bounds by the Firebirds gave the Saints the 6-5 lead, leading Chaparral to call a timeout.

Coming out of the timeout, NDP scored four straight to make it 10-5. From there, the Saints slowly built the lead, working their way to a 20-10 advantage off a block from Lucy Solorzano and a kill from junior Sofia Wallen.

At this point, the Saints were hot, and they went on to close out the set 25-12 on a ball hit out of bounds by Chaparral. After two sets, the Firebirds were feeling the pressure.

In set three, both teams fought to establish dominance. Notre Dame Prep was able to break away to a bit of a lead with a block from Hail and Stevens and a kill from Stevens, but Chaparral kept things close.

After a kill from Lucy Solorzano, a block from Sylvie Solorzano and a kill from Hail, the Saints led 17-12, bringing Chaparral to call a time out as their chances of a repeat were slipping through their fingers.

• See **Title** Page **18**

Suns

• From page 16

second-round pick, the move was widely criticized.

Hughes noted that it was puzzling to trade a pick of that value, so far into the future, for a player who might not drastically affect the team's ceiling. Hughes also wasn't a fan of the three-year $38 million contract the Suns gave center Mark Williams.

While the contract itself wasn't bad, Hughes argued, it blocked other centers on the roster — Khaman Maluach and Oso Ighodaro — from seeing meaningful minutes. However, before the season started, Williams underwent surgery to repair a torn labrum, meaning that one of the three years on the contract is already for naught.

Hughes also noted the draft pick the Suns received in the trade wasn't all that valuable.

"That 2029 selection is the least favorable of Charlotte, Cleveland, Minnesota and Utah's picks, which basically assures it'll be in the 20s," Hughes wrote.

ESPN's Zach Kram was slightly more optimistic about the Suns' offseason, giving them a B- overall. He noted that the contract extensions for Collin Gillespie and Jordan Goodwin were great value deals, and the signing of shooter Luke Kennard filled a major need.

Kram argued that if the Suns' offseason wheeling and dealing ended there, it would have been among the best in the league, but he believes, like Hughes, that the Bridges trade went too far.

Like Hughes, Kram noted that the inclusion of the 2033 first-round draft pick for Bridges, who only has one year left on his current contract and has never been an All-Star, is just too expensive for the production he is likely to give the team.



Suns forward Miles Bridges (22) shoots the ball during the second half of a game against the Charlotte Hornets, Thursday, Nov. 12 at Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix. (The Associated Press/ Rick Scuteri)

When asked how the Suns' new additions were fitting in with the team so far, coach Jordan Ott said he has liked what he has seen from them despite the overall record not being as good as expected.

Rookie forward Koa Peat, a Valley native who played at Gilbert Perry High and the University of Arizona, was drafted 30th overall in 2026. Despite Peat not playing many minutes so far, Ott has been impressed with his development.

"Koa hasn't gotten his opportunity here with us yet so far, but you can feel where he's headed," Ott said. "Every time he steps on the floor, he applies his force on both ends. That's something we're really going to need, and we feel really good in his limited minutes in preseason and regular season."

While the Bridges acquisition was the offseason move that received the most scrutiny, Ott said he appreciates Bridges' ability to buy in to what the Suns need him to do, both offensively and defensively.

"We're still learning his game," Ott said. "But he's been a lot more versatile than I thought."

The biggest issue with the Suns so far this season has been the starting lineup, as the analytics suggest. There are a lot of overlapping skillsets involved, and it has equated to some clunky basketball that the Suns' dynamic bench unit has often needed to save.

Lakers coach JJ Redick even complimented the Suns' bench.

"That group with Gillespie and Kennard and Goody and (Ryan) Dunn, that's been their best unit this season," Redick said. "That unit plays like the team played last year, and they are tough to guard. They move, they cut, they can all shoot, it is a hard unit to guard."

Title

• From page 17

The Firebirds were able to dig deep, going on a 5-2 run to cut the lead to 19-17 and force the Saints to call a time out. Chaparral came back to tie things at 19 on an ace from freshman Natalie Falkenborg and a block from Thorne.

However, Notre Dame Prep was able to turn on the jets and run away with the match and crown.

It was only fitting that two of the seniors who contributed all over the court all season were the two who closed things out. Hackleman slapped the ball down to make it 24-20, while Lucy Solorzano had the final kill to seal the deal.

"I looked for my girl (Hackleman) first," Lucy Solorzano said, after watching the final point come to fruition. "I've been with her since I was 12, and we've been through it together. I was immediately so happy I just went and hugged her and I hugged everyone else and it was such an amazing experience."

Lucy Solorzano, who finished the game with 12 kills, an assist, two aces and a block, won the game's MVP award.

"It feels amazing," Lucy Solorzano said about winning the award. "I feel so loved, I'm so grateful."

Sandoval said from an early point in the season she and her coaching staff believed this was a special group who had the potential to win the state championship.

"This is technically our first one in 5A, which I think to us is such a big deal because it's such a competitive conference," Sandoval said. "I feel like any day, it can go to whoever, so it's a really hard achievement. For them to be able to dominate, it's just amazing."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Pentatonix to bring Christmas show to Glendale

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Three-time Grammy-winning vocal quintet Pentatonix will bring its Christmas In The City Tour to Glendale.

Pentatonix will bring their harmonies and festive spirit to 28 arenas across North America this November and December and will make a West Valley stop at Desert Diamond Arena on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Tickets available at PTXOfficial.

On the tour Pentatonix will partner with the music education nonprofit Save The Music.



(Photo provided by Republic Records)

Since emerging in 2011 the vocal quintet — Scott Hoying, Mitch Grassi, Kirstin Maldonado, Kevin Olusola, and Matt Sallee — have sold 10 million albums worldwide.

IF YOU GO

Who: Pentatonix

When: Saturday, Dec. 19

Where: Desert Diamond Arena, 9400 W. Maryland Ave., Glendale

Portuguese metal band to perform in Phoenix

Van Buren show follows release of experimental new single 'Shallow'

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Portuguese metal band GAEREA will perform Friday, Nov. 27, at The Van Buren in downtown Phoenix, following the release of its new single, "Shallow."

The standalone track explores themes of depression, self-reflection and the search for hope, according to a press release. The band describes the song as one of its most experimental recordings, incorporating expanded vocal arrangements and orchestral elements.


(Submitted/GAEREA)

GAEREA has also released several reinterpretations of the song featuring guest artists. London-based cellist and composer Jo Quail appears in an acoustic version, while electronic musician Paranormal Attack contributes a remix. Pianist Juan L. Otaiza offers a separate instrumental interpretation.

The collaborations reflect the band's interest in exploring different musical styles while highlighting artists connected to Portugal's creative community.

The release comes as GAEREA marks a decade of recording and touring.

IF YOU GO

Who: GAEREA

When: Friday, Nov. 27

Where: The Van Buren, 401 W. Van Buren St., Phoenix

More Info: thevanburenphx.com

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

'MARY POPPINS'
ABOUT: Select performances Nov. 20-Jan. 3 at The Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.
INFO: The Phoenix Theatre Company presents Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's stage musical about Mary Poppins, the magical nanny who transforms the lives of the Banks family.
WEB: phoenixtheatre.com

'DIE HARD: A CHRISTMAS CAROL'
ABOUT: Select performances Nov. 20-Dec. 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 adult-oriented puppet comedy. Admission is restricted to ages 17 and older.
WEB: allpuppetplayers.com

MUÑOZ CONDUCTS SCHUMANN & BARBER
ABOUT: 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix.
INFO: The Phoenix Symphony presents a classical program conducted by Tito Muñoz featuring music by Robert Schumann and Samuel Barber.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

DOWNTOWN PHOENIX FARMERS MARKET
ABOUT: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 21, 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26; and Jan. 2, 9, at Arizona Center, 455 N. Third St., Phoenix.



Desert Botanical Garden's annual Las Noches de las Luminarias lights up this year on Nov. 27. (Submitted/Desert Botanical Garden)

INFO: The weekly outdoor market features seasonal produce, locally prepared foods and merchandise from Arizona farmers and small businesses. Admission is free.
WEB: downtownphoenixfarmersmarket.org

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 to the Past Festival features Indigenous music, dance, artist demonstrations and activities highlighting the water heritage of the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People. Admission includes access to the museum and its archaeological trail.
WEB: phoenix.gov

FAIRE AT THE SQUARE
ABOUT: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at The Square PHX, 113 N. Sixth St., Phoenix.
INFO: The free third annual winter artisan market features local vendors, nonprofit organizations, food trucks, crafts, lawn games and performances at Heritage & Science Park.
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

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 Surprise Independent will host a senior expo 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 19, 2027, at The Colonnade, 19116 N. Colonnade Way, Surprise. Individuals wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email: **azad@iniusa.org**

ZOOLIGHTS
ABOUT: 5:30-10:30 p.m. on public event nights Nov. 25-Jan. 15 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

'ELF IN CONCERT'
ABOUT: 2 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 27-29, at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix.
INFO: The Phoenix Symphony performs the score live during screenings of the 2003 holiday comedy "Elf," starring Will Ferrell.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

• See **To Do** Page **21**

To Do

• From page 20

LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS

ABOUT: 5-9:30 p.m. Nov. 27-29; Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 16-23, 26-31; and Jan. 1-3, at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix.
INFO: Thousands of luminarias illuminate the garden's desert trails, accompanied by holiday lighting, live music, seasonal displays and art installations. Tickets required.
WEB: dbg.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 animated series "Hey Arnold!" as part of a tour marking the show's 30th anniversary.
WEB: thevanburenphx.com

'A WINNIE-THE-POOH CHRISTMAS TAIL'

ABOUT: Select performances Dec. 4-23 at Valley Youth Theatre, 525 N. First St., Phoenix.
INFO: The family musical follows Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood as they try to cheer up Eeyore during the holiday season. The production features young performers.
WEB: vyt.com



The Phoenix Symphony presents an orchestral holiday program featuring seasonal music and Christmas favorites starting Dec. 4. (Photo by Tavits Photography, submitted by Phoenix Symphony)

HOLIDAY POPS SPECTACULAR

ABOUT: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix.
INFO: The Phoenix Symphony presents an orchestral holiday program featuring seasonal music and Christmas favorites.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN THEATRE

ABOUT: Select performances Dec. 4-20 at The Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.
INFO: The 29th annual Richard P. Stahl Festival of New American Theatre presents developing theatrical works and programming featuring playwrights and performers.
WEB: phoenixtheatre.com

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. Road closures are scheduled along the parade route.
WEB: phoenix.gov

'HANDEL'S MESSIAH'

ABOUT: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at Camelback Bible Church, 3900 E. Stanford Drive, Paradise Valley.
INFO: The Phoenix Symphony presents George Frideric Handel's oratorio "Messiah," including its well-known "Hallelujah" chorus, as part of its holiday concert series.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

BALLET ARIZONA: THE NUTCRACKER

ABOUT: Select performances Dec. 11-27 at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St., Phoenix.
INFO: Ballet Arizona presents Ib Andersen's production of "The Nutcracker," accompanied by Tchaikovsky's score performed live by The Phoenix Symphony. A one-hour sensory-adapted performance with recorded music is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16.
WEB: balletaz.org

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 170 local vendors. A $5 admission donation is suggested but not required.
WEB: phoestivus.com

S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM INDIAN MARKET

ABOUT: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13, at S'edav Va'aki Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix.
INFO: The 49th annual market features more than 110 Native American artists selling pottery, jewelry, paintings and other handmade items. Cultural demonstrations, performances and traditional foods are also featured.
WEB: phoenix.gov

'HOLIDAY BAROQUE'

ABOUT: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St., Phoenix.
INFO: Conductor Elliott Figg leads The Phoenix Symphony in seasonal works by Bach, Charpentier, Torelli, Scarlatti and Gabrieli.
WEB: phoenixsymphony.org

COMICS & FUN

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.

SERCT

CINEM

TECINE

OCNPEU



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.

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" " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: METAL SINGE QUAINT SCOTCH
Answer: When the barber finished his last customer just before closing, he was — CUTTING IT CLOSE

MARMADUKE

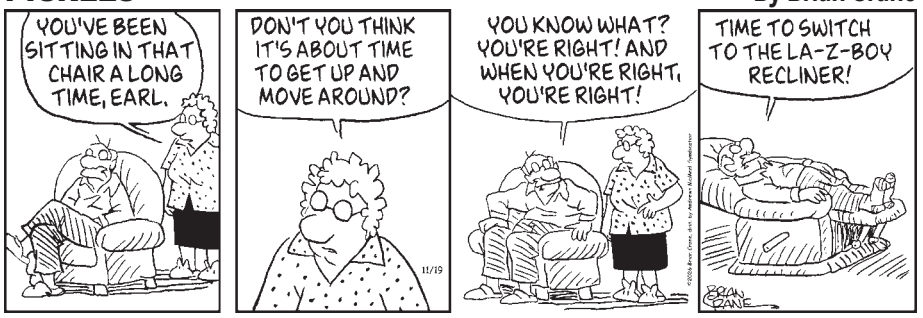
By Bradley Jay Anderson



"All I did was fill the squirrel feeder."

PICKLES

By Brian Crane



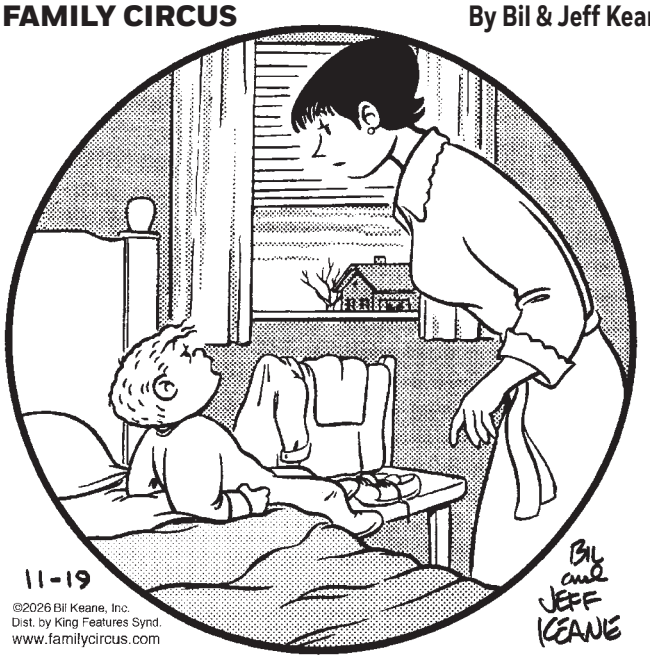
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil & Jeff Keane



"Why do I hafta get up when I'm tired and go to bed when I'm not?"

BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



BEETLE BAILEY

By Greg Walker, Brian Walker & Neal Walker



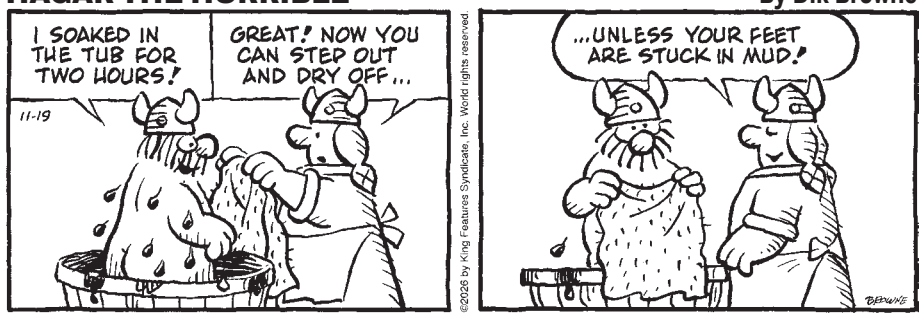
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



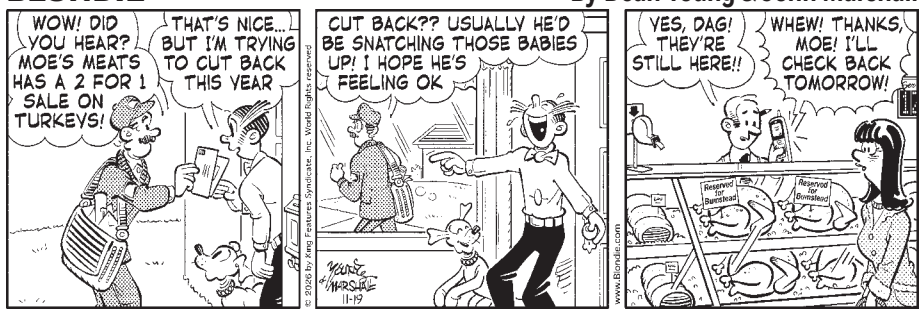
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



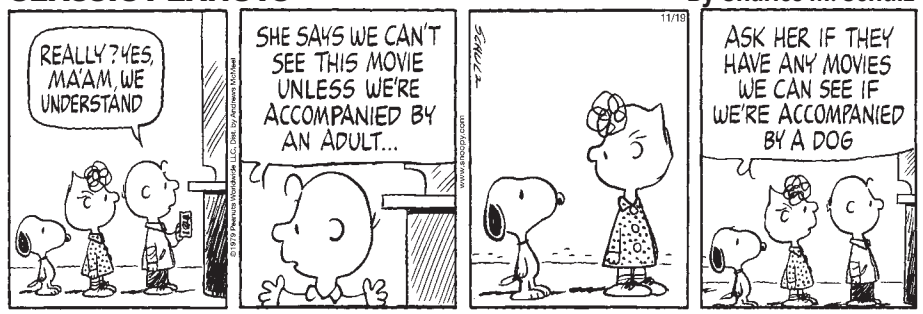
BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz



LOOKING BACK

Nov. 19

Thursday, Nov. 19, is the 323rd day of 2026.

On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during the dedication of a national cemetery at the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

Also on this date:

In 1919, the U.S. Senate, after falling short of the needed votes, rejected the Treaty of Versailles that officially ended World War I between Germany and the Allied powers. The parties in June. The U.S. signed a separate pact with Germany in 1921.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second crewed landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1984, a series of explosions at a state-owned liquefied natural gas facility north of thousands more with severe burns.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1998, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr testified before the House Judiciary Committee during impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton. (The full House approved two articles of impeachment against Clinton that December; Clinton was later acquitted in a Senate trial.)

orchestrated the killings of actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles in 1969, died in a California hospital after spending nearly a half-century in prison. He was 83.

In 2022, five people were killed and 25 injured when a shooter opened fire at an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

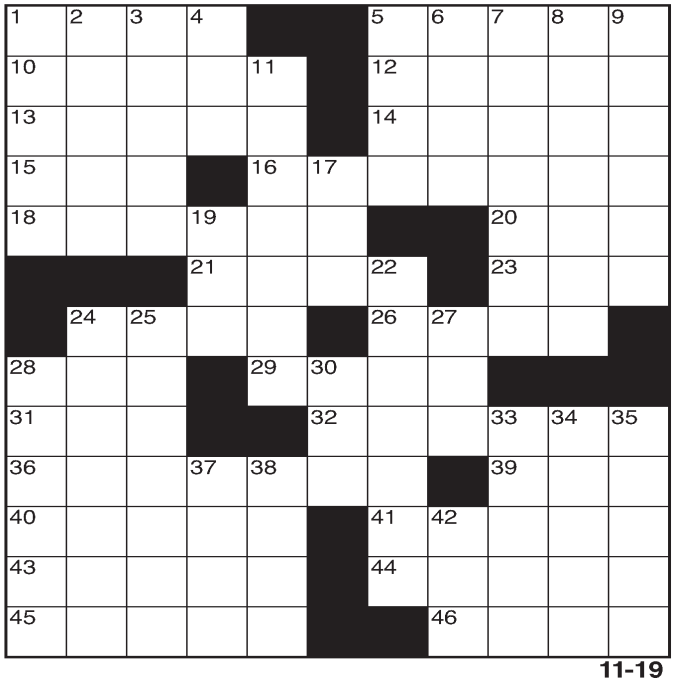
1 Tobacco wad
5 Thunder sounds
10 Type a password, perhaps
12 Two per customer, e.g.
13 Came to
14 Get up
15 Polite address
16 Two-deck card game
18 Trick-taking card game
20 Huck's friend
21 Door fastener
23 One or more
24 Latin love
26 Cincinnati team
28 Penny prez
29 Mailbox part
31 Pop
32 Trick-taking card game
36 Children's card game
39 Melody
40 "The Odyssey" director
41 Tadpole, e.g.
43 Sluggish
44 Cry of surprise
45 Start a set
46 Speck

DOWN

1 Come into conflict
2 TV's Mandel
3 Greek marketplace
4 Stir-fry pan
5 Large family
6 Old Italian coin
7 1997 Spielberg film
8 Engine parts
9 Like hot showers
11 Sweet fruit drinks
17 Cart puller
19 Pi follower
22 With one's head held high
24 Marine mollusk
25 Busybody
27 List-ending abbr.
28 Beautiful boy
30 Oahu garland
33 Brother of Groucho
34 Metal fastener
35 Wipe out
37 Sports announcer Albert
38 Poker price
42 Target

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

Yesterday's answer



11-19

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.**

'CLUE: ON STAGE' **Solution: 6 letters**

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

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Alibi, Applause, Board Game, Cast, Clue, Colonel, Confession, Costume, Curtains, Dagger, Disguise, Exit, Finale, Foster, Hall, Hunter, Knock, Mansion, Mr. Boddy, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Mustard, Mystery, On Stage, Panic, Paramount, Plum, Professor, Prop, Reveal, Rope, Rustin, Sandy, Screams, Suspense, Wadsworth, Weapon, Whodunit, Yvette

Yesterday's Answer: Hobbies

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

TRIBUNE CROSSWORD

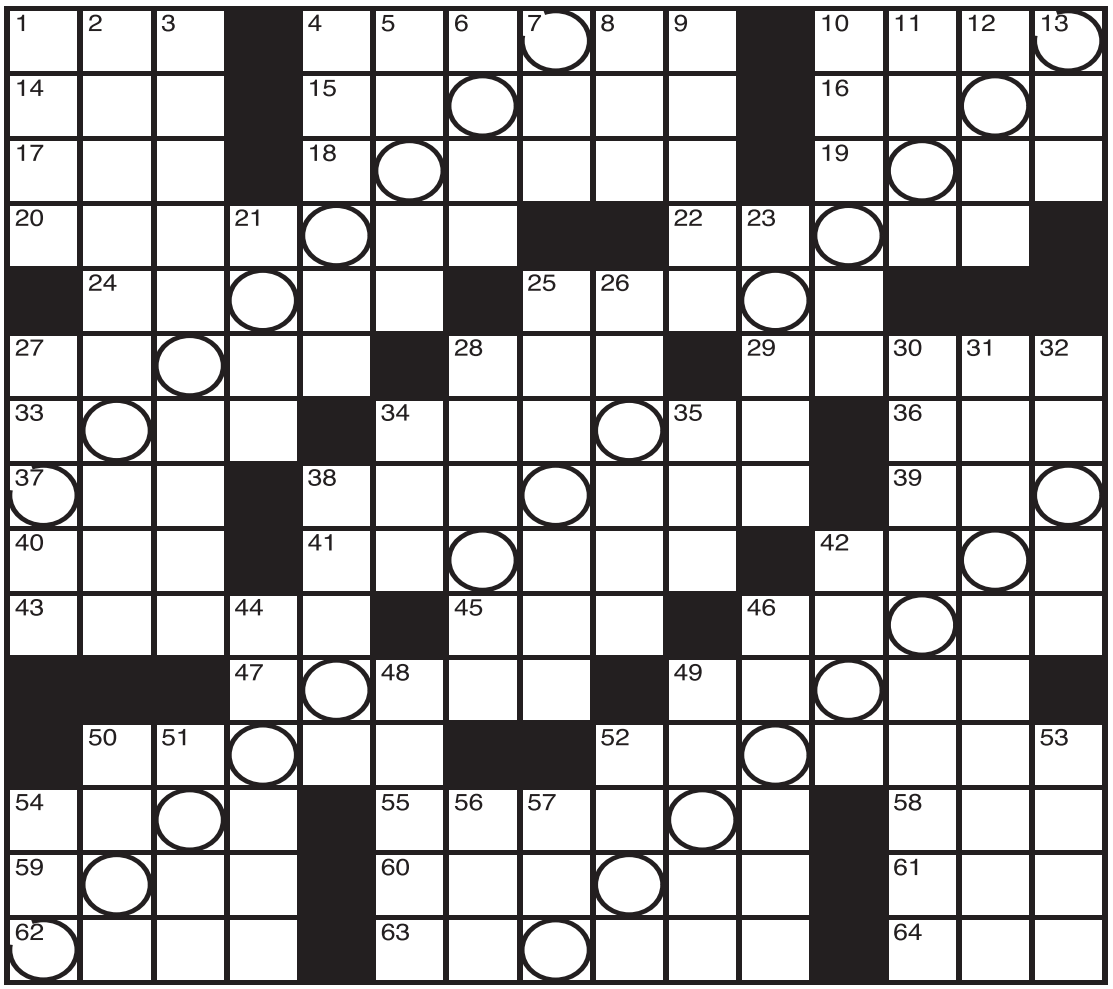
EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 "Butter" K-pop group
4 Pretend to be put out
10 Rum quaff
14 __ center
15 Give relief to
16 __ and rave
17 Sound of relief
18 Throat tissue
19 Massage therapist's supply
20 Organic food label
22 Humble
24 Diametrically opposite
25 "Nobody's Fool" novelist Richard
27 Back street
28 Boy
29 Battery terminal
33 "Stranger Things" actress Hawke
34 Domestic squealer
36 "I ain't interested"
37 "Toodles!"
38 Fred known for his 31-Down, or a phonetic description of each circled square
39 Goddess who saved Odysseus
40 Grazing field
41 Noisy toy in a playpen
42 Unloading point
43 Blundered
45 Olympic gymnast Suni
46 Character builders?
47 Ways and means
49 Oktoberfest stein fillers
50 Sign of autumn
52 Tickler's targets
54 Heavyweight wrestling
55 Spoken
58 Just out
59 Duracell options
60 Part of a vague threat
61 Transcript fig.
62 Fall blooms, for short
63 Least likely to fail
64 Protected fig.

DOWN

1 Boast
2 One who works well in a group
3 Academic division
4 On the wrong path
5 Dove, at times
6 Vocal quality
7 Range pts.
8 Tuna variety
9 Wooded valleys
10 Become more appealing to
11 Commuter option
12 Just
13 Classic sports cars
21 Canine pest
23 "Killers of the Flower Moon" people
25 Goes for a spin
26 Disentangle after a fumble recovery
27 Stroll leisurely
28 Make do with a lesser option
30 Fried side
31 Moves from a choreographer, or what this puzzle's circles form
32 "Return of the Jedi" furballs
34 Educational ad
35 Intense anger
38 Intense passion
42 Profound
44 Add a design that stands out?
46 Lime-flavored cocktail
48 Alpine resort town that hosts the World Economic Forum annual meeting
49 Orchestra section
50 Waikiki party
51 Muslim leader
52 Proficient
53 The ugly duckling, eventually
54 "Stay With Me" singer Smith
56 Historical stretch
57 B-ball official



By Joseph A. Gangi

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11/19/26

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

11/14/26

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.

MCAOE

ESEGE

NIYLGF

RDYAHL

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

Today's Guest JUMBLER is
TOM TORO
cartoonist for The New Yorker



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.

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" ◯◯ - ◯◯◯◯ - ◯◯◯◯ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREST MINCE ENTICE POUNCE
Answer: Liō unveils what he considers to be his absolute — "MONSTERPIECE"

MARMADUKE

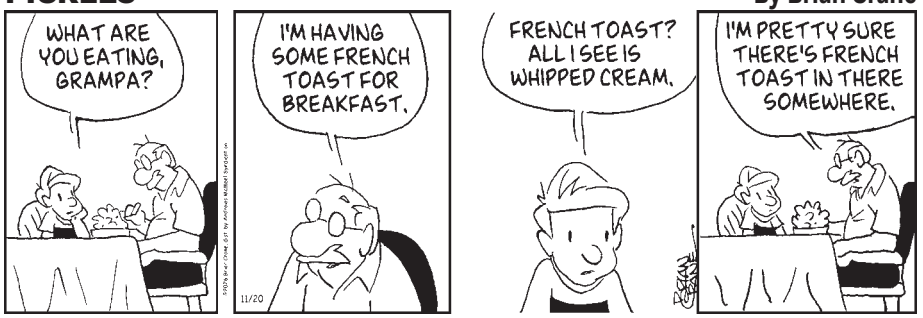
By Bradley Jay Anderson



"I don't care how big that German shepherd's doghouse is, I'm not renovating yours."

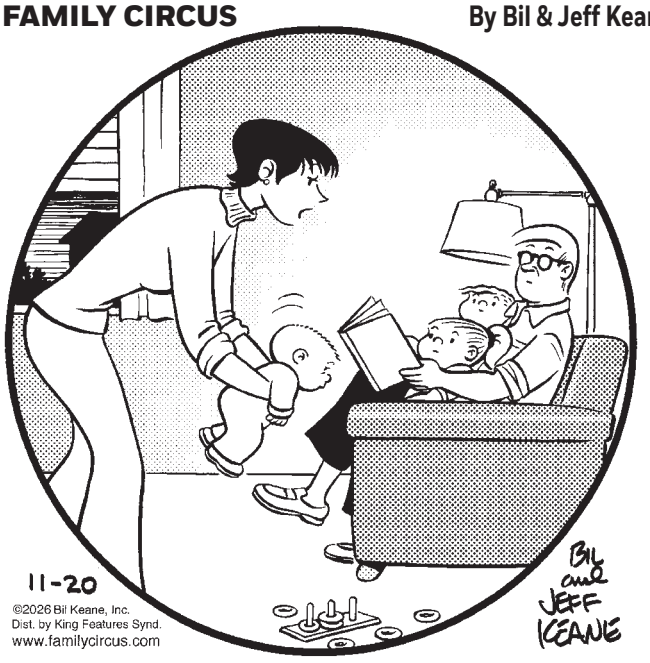
PICKLES

By Brian Crane



FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil & Jeff Keane



"Is he getting heavier or is it just late in the day?"

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



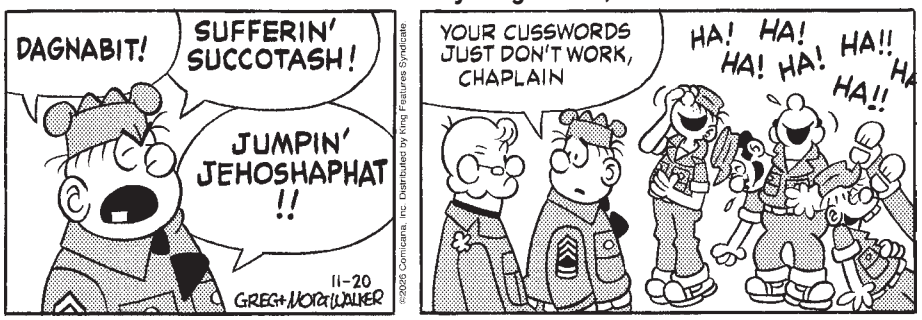
BABY BLUES

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



TODAY IN HISTORY

Nov. 20

Friday, Nov. 20, is the 324th day of 2026.

On Nov. 20, 1910, Francisco Madero called for an uprising against Mexican President Porfirio Díaz, marking the beginning of the decade-long Mexican Revolution.

Also on this date:

In 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before a war-crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. The International Military Tribunal convicted 19 defendants and acquitted three; 12 were sentenced to death and seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life.)

In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1968, an explosion at a coal mine outside Farmington, West Virginia, killed 78 miners. (The incident spurred U.S. safety laws intended to protect miners.)

In 1969, Native American activists began an occupation of Alcatraz Island that lasted 19 months until the last occupiers were forcibly removed by federal authorities.

In 1982, the University of California, Berkeley, football team beat Stanford on the game's last play by scoring a touchdown on a lateral-filled kickoff return. The play unfolded even as the Stanford marching band had entered the field, believing its team had won. The bizarre finish became known simply as "The Play."

In 1992, fire broke out at Windsor Castle, an official weekend residence of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, damaging numerous rooms.

In 2003, music producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of actor Lana Clarkson at his California home. (After a first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007, Spector was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life; he died in prison at age 81 on Jan. 16, 2021.)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

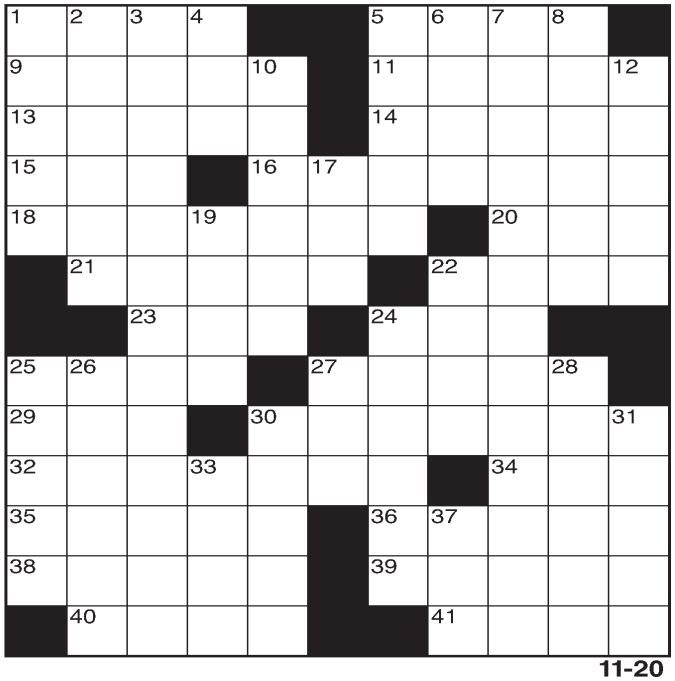
1 Days gone by
5 Encircle
9 Knight wear
11 Orchestra members
13 Nary a soul
14 Lean
15 Moody music
16 Florida neighbor
18 Prepares to shave
20 That lady
21 Avoids
22 Sibilant summons
23 Harden
24 — canto
25 Heavy metal
27 Women's quarters
29 French friend
30 Tricked
32 Fast-growing cereal grains
34 Genetic stuff
35 Saucer occupant
36 Bird-related
38 Trig functions
39 Chop up
40 Beast
41 A long time

DOWN

1 Seminar group
2 Kitchen come-ons
3 Something easy
4 Great weight
5 "Vacation" singers
6 Structural support
7 Something hard
8 Refuses
10 King's stand-in
12 Kick off
17 Hosp. sections
19 Tinted
22 Llama's land
24 Fragrant wood
25 Eastern monks
26 Designer Pucci
27 — up (agitated)
28 Threat
30 Slow-witted
31 Hamlet extras
33 Lewd look
37 Through

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

Yesterday's answer



11-20

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.**

VINCENT PASTORE (1946-2026) **Solution: 7 letters**

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

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Actor, American, Awakenings, Berke, Bonpensiero, Broadway, Bronx, Chicago, Drama, Emmy, Family, Feud, Fuhgeddaboudit, Goodfellas, Gotti, Italian, Jersey, Las Vegas, Nancy, Navy, New York, Podcast, Remedy, Renee, Revolver, Sailor, Salvatore, San Marzano, Sauce, The Curse, The Deli, The Ref, The Sopranos, Undercover, Vinny, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Murder

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

TRIBUNE CROSSWORD

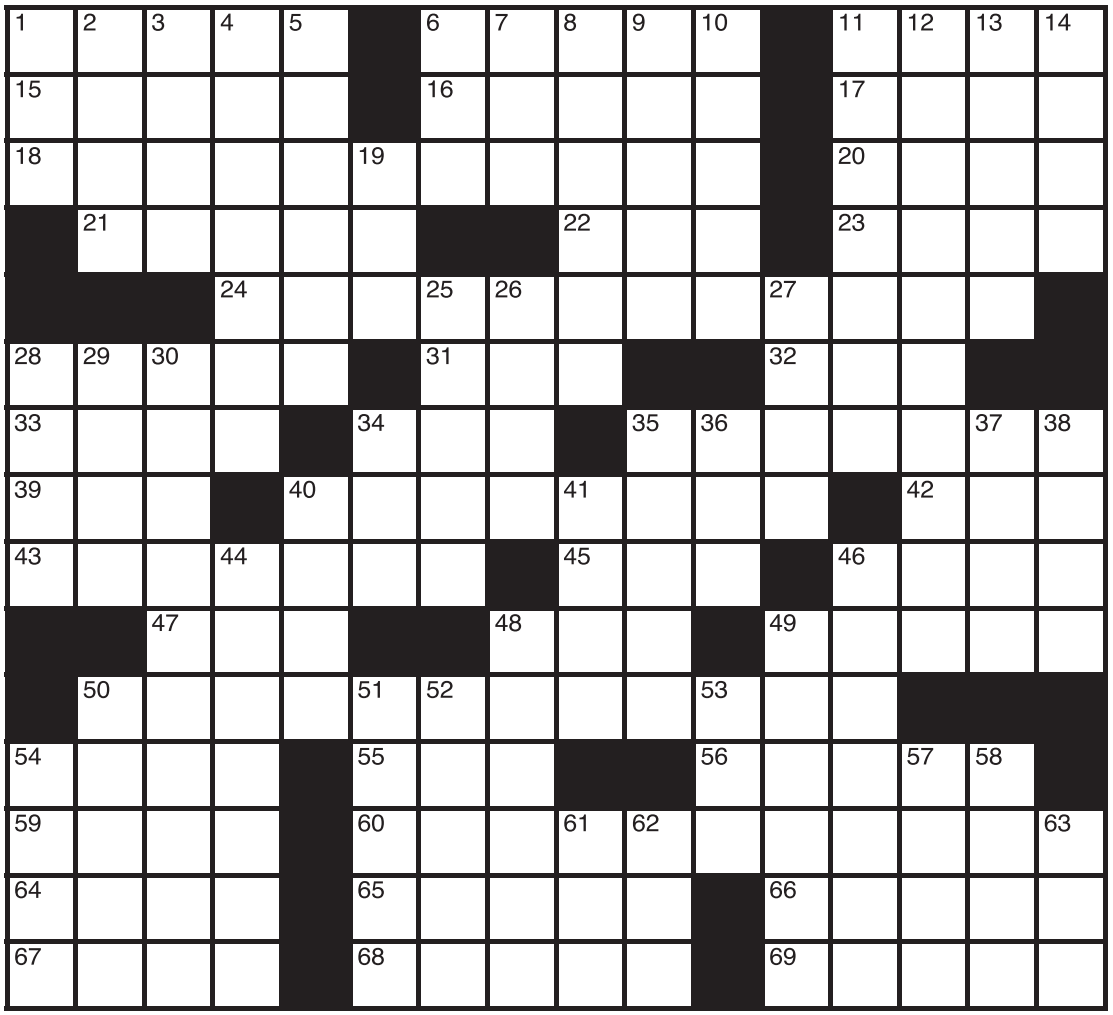
EDITED BY PATTI VAROL

ACROSS

1 Farm cry
6 State as fact
11 Annual Vegas tourney
15 Visibly emotional
16 __ asado: chicken dish
17 Wintour of Vogue
18 *Need-for-speed scenario
20 Tom Hiddleston series in the MCU
21 Philadelphia athlete
22 __ tai
23 Pigeon-__
24 *Sentimentally sweet
28 Again and again
31 Kimono accessory
32 Giggle starter
33 Tudyk of "Resident Alien"
34 Lines of praise
35 Go toward
39 Bottom line
40 *Kid-friendly swear word
42 1-Across maker
43 Service components
45 Cheek swab molecule
46 Continent east of the Urals
47 "Golly!"
48 High-sided pan
49 Record, as data
50 *Sarcastic response to a tedious anecdote
54 __ and crafts
55 Yoga ball filler
56 Wagered, in a way
59 Centers of activity
60 Handle pressure, or how to form the answers to the starred clues?
64 "Magnum, P.I." isle
65 Touch lightly
66 Old photo tone
67 __ Spunkmeyer cookies
68 Like a noisy toy
69 Private rendezvous

DOWN

1 FYI kin
2 Dolma wrap
3 Video game partner of ToeJam
4 Bucket O Soldiers toys, in "Toy Story"
5 Record, as data
6 EMT skill
7 __ Alamos, New Mexico
8 Graduates
9 Epic that ends with Hector's funeral
10 Central theme
11 Sauntered (in)
12 Total bore
13 Pitch-perfect
14 Settled
19 Clickable link
25 Extinct birds
26 Genesis brother
27 Six-sided state
28 Hops kiln
29 Fireplace shaft
30 Digital pet of the 1990s
34 Alley-__
35 Tissue alternative, informally
36 Landing hr. guess
37 Boo-boo
38 Bring up
40 Prompted to act now?
41 Hydrogen's lack
44 Fahrenheit counterpart
46 "Beer me again!"
48 Agitate
49 Novelist Hemingway
50 Dubrovnik native
51 Twiddled one's thumbs
52 Princess costume topper
53 "Curses!"
54 Potato, in Indian cooking
57 Adorably soporific, in internet slang
58 Place of honor
61 Unusual ability
62 "... hallowed be __ name"
63 Needlework on a sleeve, for short



By Yijing Chen

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11/20/26

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



11/20/26

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

HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Don't worry if people do not always understand your intentions, Scorpio. You are a natural born leader, and you have to make some challenging decisions from time to time.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you may find you're the life of the party sometime this week. Embrace the limelight but make sure to set aside some time for rest and relaxation.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

You have a big event on the horizon that you have been planning, Capricorn. If it has been taking up too much of your energy, try delegating a few tasks to get some relief.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, try to be supportive of those around you even when you may not agree with all of their reasoning. Diplomacy will help you keep a good group of friends.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

If you can't figure out something that is puzzling you, it's best to take it to a few other people who may offer a fresh perspective, Pisces.

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

You may want to be everywhere at once when the social invitations arrive, Aries. But this week you will have to pick your RSVPs carefully. Spend time with close friends.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You have a lot of things on your mind, Taurus. The best way to handle this kind of situation is to find a quiet place and think about all the answers you need.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, a spending spree is not the way to go right now. You have to be more responsible with your money. Ask a relative or friend to help you work on a budget.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Problems have a funny way of sticking around even when you try to avoid them, Cancer. Rather than running from difficult decisions, it is time to meet them head on.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, find a restful spot to recharge if you have had an overwhelming week. Plan a spa weekend or even just a quiet hike through a park.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a change of scenery is something you can use right now. Pack up an overnight bag or backpack and hit the road for some spontaneous adventures.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Focus most of your energy on a work assignment that has been looming for some time now, Libra. Once it is off your plate, you can focus your energy on everything else.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

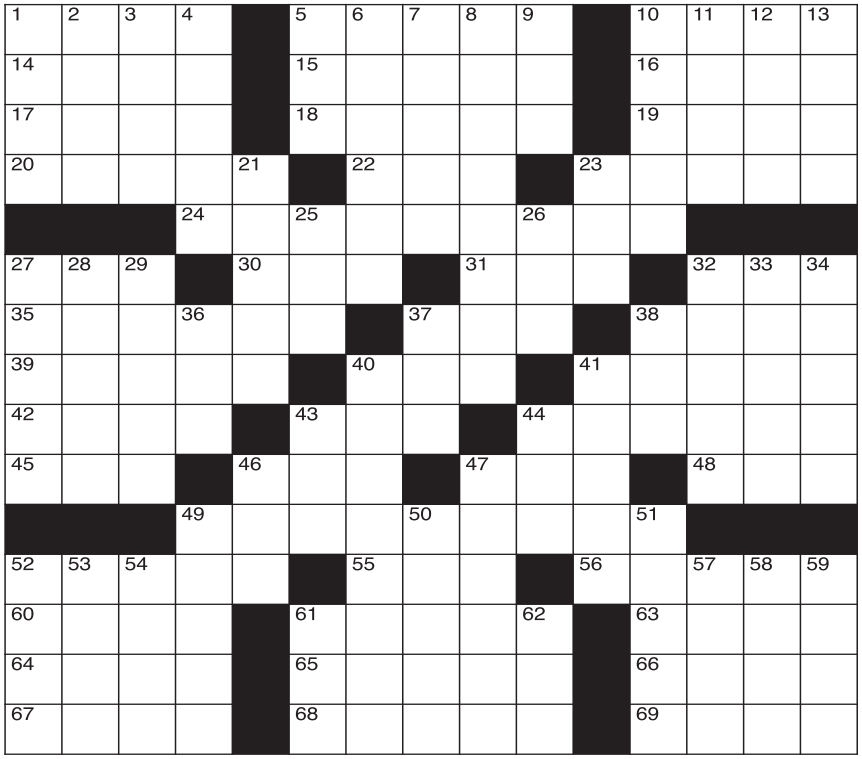
Here's How It Works:

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:

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

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

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Miscellaneous



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Miscellaneous



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Miscellaneous



Roofing



Miscellaneous



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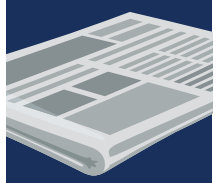

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Public Notice

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

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

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

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 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

Lucy Ann Schommer, Trustee

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

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?



Browse the community calendar

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Public Notice

ENTERED
NOV 10 2026
FORT McDOWELL TRIBAL COURT

IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF

THE FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION

In the Matter of the Estate of:	**Case No. CVPB-2026-011**
STERLING CONRAD CHERRY,	**LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**
DOD: JUNE 16, 2025	
Deceased.	

Denzel Dogka is hereby appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Accordingly, he shall have the authority to perform the functions of a Personal Representative, including:

1. The power and duty to obtain and file with the Court a certified copy of the decedent's death certificate;
2. Access to the decedent's property;
3. Access to government records necessary for the performance of his/her appointed duties;
4. Access to financial records, medical provider records, and records relating to any assets or obligations of the decedent necessary for the performance of his/her appointed duties;
5. To preserve and protect the decedent's property within the estate for the benefit of the estate and the heirs, to the extent possible;
6. To promptly investigate all claims against the decedent's estate and determine whether such claims are just and proper;
7. To promptly determine the names, ages, and addresses of all the decedent's heirs, devisees and legatees;
8. To promptly cause a written inventory of all the decedent's property within the estate to be prepared with each article or item being separately set forth and cause such property to be exhibited to and appraised by an appraiser, and the inventory and appraisal thereof to be filed with the Court;
9. To promptly give all persons entitled thereto such notice as is required by the law;
10. To account for all property within the estate which may come into his possession or control, and to maintain accurate records of all income received, and disbursements made during the course of the administration;
11. To advise the Court whether the estate is subject to any exemptions and if so then to motion the Court for appropriate hearings;
12. To provide periodic accounting as directed by the Court for each calendar year the Estate is open;
13. To submit a final accounting verified by oath and a Distribution Schedule for approval by the Court;
14. To provide documentation of distribution; and
15. To complete other duties and/or responsibilities as may be required by law relative to the appointment as Personal Representative.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of November, 2026.

FORT McDOWELL TRIBAL COURT

Hon. Brian P. Gray, Chief Judge
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

I, Billie Dillon, Clerk of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Court, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing instrument and find that it is a true and correct copy of the original now on file with the Court, and find that it is in full force and effect in the above-entitled matter and that the undersigned has custody thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Court, located at 10755 N. Fort McDowell Road, Fort McDowell, Arizona 85264 on this 10th day of November, 2026.

Billie Dillon
Court Clerk

Copies to:
Personal Representative

IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE

FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION (Arizona)

In the Matter of the Estate of:	**Case No.:**
Sterling Cherry	**Notice to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and/or Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Housing Department of Appointment of Personal Representative and Probate of Estate**
Deceased.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. On 10th November the Court has appointed Denzil Dogka as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Sterling Cherry. The address for the Personal Representative is 17790 E. Bonita St Fort mcdowell AZ 85264
2. CLAIMS: All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within 120 days of the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims are forever barred.
3. NOTICE OF CLAIMS: All claims must be presented in writing by delivering or mailing a statement of the claim to the Personal Representative at the address listed in Paragraph 1 above.

DATED this 11th day of November, 2026.

Denzil Dogka
Signature of Personal Representative

Denzil Dogka
Printed Name

Notice to Creditors

11/06

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 20, 27, December 4, 2026/52103_1

Public Notice

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Please be advised, Ms. Maravi Moore with APMI Inc, will host a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the project referenced below. Any member of the public may participate in this conversation as it pertains to this project by utilizing the information provided under Neighborhood Meeting Details below. According to Surprise Municipal Code, the applicant is required to host a Neighborhood Meeting to present their project to the public while soliciting feedback and providing answers to questions. Please note, the City of Surprise is not the host of this meeting; however, the assigned City Planner will be available to provide information as needed in response to inquiries received from residents.

Applicant: Maravi Moore, 480-622-3684, mmoore@apmi.com
City of Surprise Planner: Aslesha Basnet, 623-222-3152, aslesha.basnet@surpiseaz.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING DETAILS

DATE: ***Tuesday, December 08, 2026***
TIME: 6:00PM
LOCATION: *Asante Library, Asante Imaginarium Program Room 16755 W. Vereda Solana Dr. Surprise, AZ, 85387*

Project Location



Meeting Location



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Site Plan for a Bank with drive-through to allow for the development of Chase Bank. The site is generally located on the Northwest corner 163rd Ave and Country Club Dr., Surprise Planning Case #FS26-0214.

Publish: Surprise Independent, November 18, Phoenix Independent, 20, 2026/51869_1

Public Notice

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Please be advised, Mr. Ryan Nelson with Kimley-Horn and Associates, will host a Neighborhood Meeting to discuss the project referenced below. Any member of the public may participate in this conversation as it pertains to this project by utilizing the information provided under Neighborhood Meeting Details below. According to Surprise Municipal Code, the applicant is required to host a Neighborhood Meeting to present their project to the public while soliciting feedback and providing answers to questions. Please note, the City of Surprise is not the host of this meeting; however, the assigned City Planner will be available to provide information as needed in response to inquiries received from residents.

Applicant: Ryan Nelson, 408-581-5916, ryan.nelson@kimley-horn.com
City of Surprise Planner: Aslesha Basnet, 623-222-3152, aslesha.basnet@surpiseaz.gov

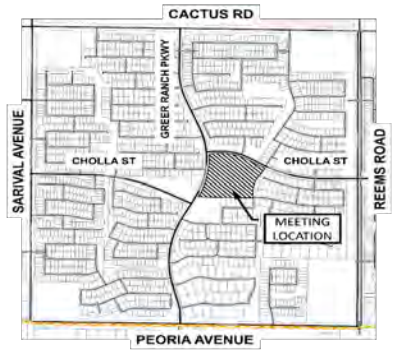
NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING DETAILS

DATE: ***Wednesday, December 09, 2026***
TIME: 6:00PM
LOCATION: *Media Center at Sonoran Heights Middle School 11405 N Greer Ranch Pkwy Surprise, AZ, 85379*

Project Location



Meeting Location



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Site Plan for a drive through facility to allow for the development of a Zaxby's restaurant with drive-through. The site is generally located on the Southwest corner N Prasada Parkway and Cactus Road, Surprise Planning Case #FS26-0337.

Surprise Independent, November 18, Phoenix Independent, 20, 2026/51871_1

Public Notice

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
102440 East Athletic Village Tennis, Track and Field Facilities

Project Description
Arizona State University (ASU) extends an invitation to interested and qualified DesignBuild Teams to submit their statement of qualifications to provide Design Build Services for a project that includes a new Track and Field Facility and Tennis Facility located on the
Tempe campus.

Pre-Submittal Meeting
A recommended Pre-Submittal Meeting will be held on: **11/19/2026; 10:00AM, MST.** The meeting will be held via Zoom.

- https://asu.zoom.us/j/83928167100?from=addon
- US: +16027530140,,83928167100# or +19712471195,,83928167100#
- Meeting ID: 839 2816 7100

Procurement will provide instructions and requirements to firms interested in submitting a Statement of Qualifications. Attendance at this meeting is suggested, but not mandatory.

Statement of Qualifications
Formal qualifications must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MST on 12/04/2026.** All times noted are Mountain Standard Time (MST); Daylight Savings Time is NOT observed.

Obtain a Copy of RFQ
The Request for Qualifications with instructions for submission is available on the ASU Construction Bid Board at https://cfo.asu.edu/construction-facilities-bid-board

Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 20, 2026/52097_1

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF VACANCY
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
CITY OF EL MIRAGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of El Mirage is accepting applications to fill 3 vacant seats on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

About the Commission: The Commission is a volunteer citizen body that serves as the primary advisory panel to the City Council on rezoning, conditional uses, temporary uses, and adoption of the general plan.

Requirements: Applicants must reside within the City of El Mirage limits. Ideal candidates should possess an interest in community growth, development, or related fields (such as architecture, construction, real estate, or civil engineering), though all residents are welcome.

Term: This is an appointed position (3) for unexpired terms.

How to Apply: Interested candidates can apply online through the City's website at www.elmirageaz.gov. Completed applications must be received by no later than January 29, 2027, at 5:00 p.m.

Published by order of the City Clerk.
Publish: Phoenix Independent, November 6, November 20, 2026/51360_1



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