

The Fence Post

Happy Holidays

The Staff of the Fence Post, would like to wish all our readers a wonderful Holiday Season.

We would like to thank all the fantastic advertisers who have supported our local newsletter this past year. We could not continue to create and print the Fence Post without them.

This is our Buy Local edition. We ask our readers to please patronize our local advertisers and other local businesses. Most of our local businesses are family owned and a vital part of our economy.



THANK YOU FROM THE

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Dear Three Points Community,

Our Committee would like to send a LOUD, HEARTY SHOUT OUT to everyone who helped make the 18th Annual Three Points Community Festival such a success!

Although attendance was slightly lower this year, the energy and joy were undeniable. We welcomed around **1000 wrist banded guests through the gate**—not including our incredible volunteers, vendors, and assistants who made the day possible and made the day run smoothly.

We extend our congratulations to all the prize winners and heartfelt thanks to those who participated in raffles and games. Your contributions of time, energy, and resources help ensure the continued success of future festivals.

Sponsors

A special thank you to our amazing sponsors: Friends of Robles Ranch, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, King's Anvil Ranch, United Community Health Center, Fearless Contracting, and Trico. Your ongoing support makes this celebration possible year after year.

Vendors & Car Show

We are grateful to all our vendors and food partners who shared their talents and flavors, including Churros El Rey LLC, Circle M Smoke Pit and Cody Coyote Kettle

Corn. And to all the car enthusiasts who joined our 4th **Annual Car Show**—thank you for bringing excitement and style to the festival!

Volunteers

Another huge thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers. From welcoming vendors to overseeing games and wristbands, your efforts ensured everything ran smoothly. We truly appreciate your commitment to making this event special.

Gratitude

Finally, we give thanks to God for blessing us with beautiful weather and the opportunity to gather once again in Three Points to celebrate our wonderful community.

Don't forget—you can always reach us at <u>Powerofthreepoints@gmail.com</u> with feedback or suggestions. Follow us on Facebook at **Three Points**Community Festival for updates as well since there will be a lot of upcoming changes to the festival.

With gratitude, **The Community Festival Committee**Warm Regards, Rita Taylor, Community Festival Coordinator

<u>Powerofthreepoints@gmail.com</u>

No Fence Post In January

In order for our Fence Post Staff to enjoy the Christmas Holiday we will not create a January Issue.

We wish all our readers a wonderful and safe Holiday season.

See you in February 2026





Community Calendar Page

Community Weekly/Monthly Events at **Serenity Baptist Church** 15501 W Ajo Hwy 520-822-2026

Caring Food Ministries	Thurs 8-9:30 AM
Sierrita Mountain	Meet at Serenity Baptist Church 2nd
Livestock 4 H Club	Thursday of each month at 7pm

Weekly/Monthly Events at The HUB Building 16150 West Ajo Hwy 85735

My Friends Closet Tues 10-1, Wed 3-6, Thurs 10-1 My Friends Closet will be closed for the Christmas & New Year Holiday They will be closed from December 23rd thru January 1st. They will reopen on January 6th.

Robles Ranch Food Bank Please Call 520-343-2353 Tues 10-3, Wed 3-6, Thurs 10-3 Closed on Christmas Day & New Years Eve Day



Grub At The HUB December 3rd 4 to 6 PM

No Friday Night Hoops the first Friday of January, (1/2/25) At the Community Center.



KJ'S 520-270-7280

\$2.29 Gal Propane

Gas & Diesel, Certified Propane, Coffee, Snacks, Beer, Mini Smoke Shop and More

Mon-Thur 6 am - 9 pm Fri 6 am -10 pm Sat 7 am -10 pm Sunday 7 am - 9 pm

New Shamrock products

1/2 & 1 Gal. Milk, sour cream, cottage cheese, egg nog, coffee creamer, wheat and white bread, hotdog & hamburger buns, new flavors of ice cream and frozen meals

Swap Meet available for set up on Friday Saturday & Sunday please call 520-270-7280 for details.

Other Events This Month

AVSD School Board	2nd Wed of the month - 6 pm AVMS
4-H Robles Ranchers	Meeting are at the Double E Feed Store 2nd Friday of the Month at 7 p.m.

Fence Post Deadline 20th of the month 5 pm This is a firm deadline.

E-mail articles to fencepost3points@gmail.com

Weekly/Monthly Events at **Robles Ranch Community Center** Monday thru Friday 10 Am to 6 Pm 16150 West Ajo Hwy 85735 Phone: 520-822-4408

The Community Center Will Be Closed From December 22 Thru January 2nd.

Friends Of Robles Ranch Meeting will be December 2nd, 6pm and January 6th, 6pm

Bookmobile Every Third Tuesday of the month 2:30pm-3:30pm.

Activities Available Every Day

Computer Lab

Open to the public 10:30 am- 5:30 pm Monday-Friday.

Billards Table

Open to the public 10:30 am- 5:30 pm Monday-Friday.

Robles Ranch Lending Library

Open to the public 10:30 am- 5:30 pm Monday-Friday.

Horse Arena

Open for public use M-F, FREE of charge, 10 am-5:30 pm.

Scheduled Activities At The Community Center

Monday, December 1st - Robles Prime Timers Community Meeting Potluck: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join us as we discuss upcoming activities and trips with a potluck brunch.

Active Adults Fitness

Fridays, December 5, 19-10:30-11:30

Yoga for Beginners:

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16–10:15-11:15 a.m. **Or** Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 - 10:15-11:15 a.m. Must be registered online to attend.

Mexican Train Dominoes:

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16–10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Active Adults Craft Days

Mondays, December 8, 15-10:30-12:30 Fall Crafts

Robles Prime Timers

Friday, December 12 – Trip: Winter Street Fair. We will depart the center at 10:00 a.m. and return around 3:00 p.m.



Grub at the Hub

The holiday **Grub at the Hub** will be in full swing on December 3rd from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Join us for a fun evening with our signature \$3.00 hot dog meal, including chips and a soda, great music, and our \$50 resource raffle.

We look forward to hanging out with you and our community resources partners. The funds we raise from our event go back into the community to support other outreach events and programs supported by Friends of Robles Ranch.

We will also host our first ugly Christmas sweater or T-shirt contest. If you're brave and feeling the holiday spirit, join us! The contest begins at 5 pm. The ugliest wins the prize!



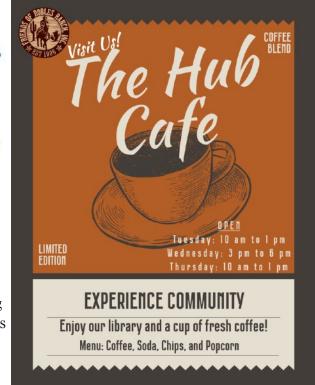


The Hub Cafe

We are open and ready to serve our community! If you're looking for a place to read, relax, and hang out, we offer one of the best spots in Three Points. Stop by, enjoy a fresh cup of coffee, and hang out with friends!











Holiday Shopping At My Friends Closet Don't Miss This Jewelry Sale







HUB Holiday Hours

My Friends Closet
Tues 10-1, Wed 3-6, Thurs 10-1
My Friends Closet will be closed from
December 23rd thru January 1st.
They will reopen on January 6th.

Robles Ranch Food Bank

Tues 10-3, Wed 3-6, Thurs 10-3 Closed on Christmas Day & New Years Day



Robles Ranch Food Bank

We are committed to providing essential food services and making sure our community members can access them.

Our benefits application will be available on our website under the Food Bank page. Please visit www.friendsofroblesranch.org, click the "Food Bank" tab, and then select the downloadable form.

After filling out the form, please bring it to the Food Bank for processing. If you have any questions, click the contact link to email us. Thank you!

The HUB - Our Three Points/ Robles Junction Community Website https://www.friendsofroblesranch.org/ Provided by Friends Of Robles Ranch

Check Out HUB Resource Guide

A list of organizations that provide help and services. All Links are live on this list for easy browsing of services.







AVON

Shop On Line For Great Holiday Gifts

Avon's Digital On Line Brochure makes it easy to browse and shop their many products.

- Fabulous jewelry including Holiday jewelry items that are fun to wear.
- Charming Christmas decorations
- Make up and skin care items
- Fragrances
- Sleepwear











Victoria Wharton-Greenhow is our local Avon Consultant.

Place You Order By December 17th To Receive Before Christmas

Go straight to **www.avon.com/repstore/vwgreenhow** to shop with her.

Some of the benefits of shopping with an Avon consultant are:

- Free Shipping right to your home on order \$60+
- Enjoy special pricing & exclusive offers
- Personalized service & advice
- Exclusive samples & more





The Funniest Face

~ Anon
The funniest face looked out at me
From a silver ball
On the Christmas
Tree!

At first I thought
It was Santa's elf,
But I looked again
and
It was just myself!





What gives you strength this time of the year?

It's a valid question especially the late fall time of year with Christmas approaching! - We all go through hundreds of thoughts every day. Many of those thoughts leave us with worry as the answers are not right there.....

I am talking about practical things like a meal for Thanksgiving, presents for family Christmas, is the winter going to be cold, do we need new warm coats, and so on!

Thus again a very valid question is where do we get our strength from !

How to get back to balance, actually "back to earth ", so to say

Think about it, as our thoughts can carry us away or rather take us off our balance!

The biggest Holiday of the Year , Christmas, could actually give us the answer!

No it's not the gifts, nor the fantastic holiday foods! But actually the opposite.

Quiet down, take deep breaths and pray!

Calming down, sitting quietly, taking deep breaths in and out until you reach a calm state!

And then say prayers for friends, for family and whoever needs help!! That mostly is the best remedy to balance and strength!

Our societies give us too much hassle and noise before the great Holiday.- Step out of it, return to your own calm sphere, where prayer leads you to calmness and joy.

Try it, it may work for you !!!

With loving wishes Anita K. from Diamond Bell





The Bulldog Bakery & BBQ

The Old One Stop Market

NEW STORE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9am - 10pm Friday 9am - 11pm Saturday 5am - 11pm. Sunday 5am - 10pm

Phone Number 520-578-6160

Take & Bake Pizza

We Make Them Fresh You Bake Them At Home

Call us 30 minutes in advance so we can prepare your Pizza fresh.

Take & Bake Pizza available everyday.

Call in food orders can be made until 10PM for all menu items except pizza.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday cooked Pizzas can be ordered until 9:30PM.

Saturday & Sunday BBQ Available Starting At Noon (While Supplies Last)

Check Out Our FaceBook Page to find our specials

Bulldog Bakery & BBQ
Like Us On Facebook and watch for innouncements on advertised specials and new items.

From Bulldog Bakery & BBQ

We want to thank all our customers for allowing us to serve our community.

Our **Bakery** is now open with the following items that are available on a made to order only. Brownies, Chocolate Chip cookies, Sugar cookies, Peanut Butter cookies and Snickerdoodle cookies. Made to order

Order Your Holiday Pies and Cookies Please Place Your Orders At least 24 Hours In Advance

You can order a 16" Pizza sized cookie from the available flavors for \$19.99

Order a "Brookie". This is a brownie with your choice of the cookie doughs we offer for \$29.99



Elf On the Shelf Starts December 1st

Beginning December 1st thru December 25th will be our **Find Elf On the Shelf** with a different prize each day,

We can't wait to see you all again for the fun.



Nobody Does More to Serve Your Real Estate Needs

Hi, I'm Kelly Medlock — a Realtor who believes that home is where family and memories begin.

I've been fortunate to be at it for over 10 years, helping clients find not just a house, but a place that truly fits their life and the people they love most. Family means everything to me, and I bring that same care and commitment to every client I work with.

Whether you're buying your first home, upgrading for a growing family, or selling to start a new chapter, I'm here to make the process smooth, personal, and stress-free.

Proven Home Realty began in 2004 in Tucson, AZ with the simple thought that a responsive, needs based approach to real estate services could be a true differentiator in the market.

From 2004 to now, we have helped over 1000 people buy, sell and invest in real estate through the south-west and almost 20 years later we continue to bring the same service minded approach to our clients.

If you are interested in buying a new home or selling your current home, I look forward to helping you.

You can contact me at by phone at 520-784-9833 or email me at kellyann@nobodydoesmore.com





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REALTOR®

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4525 E Skyline Dr. #125, Tucson, AZ 85718

PROVEN

NOBODY DOES MORE, THAT'S PROVEN



Does Your Christmas List Include Anyone Who Is Hard To Find A Gift For?

How About The Gift Of Unique Pickles.

Donna Keeler, from Stellas Pickled Products, makes a variety of very unique pickles. She makes:

Cowboy Candy Pineapple & Cowboy Candy Relish

Dill Pickles, Jalapeño Relish, Pickle Red Onions, Pickled Garlic, Pickle Green Beans, Hot Dill Pickles, Hot Cauliflower and Jalapeño Relish

Seasonal Items Like

Pickled Green Tomatoes and Pickled Okra



You can find Donna at KJ's Saturdays from 6 am to noon. Or Sundays next to Bisbee Breakfast Club 9 am to 2 pm



You can also contact Donna at bestpickleever@yahoo.com



Kestrel Kafe Celebrating 30 Years Serving Three Points

Hello to my community. My name is Donna Derosia and 30 years ago on November 8, 1995 I built and opened Kestrel Kafe & Market.

It has been a project based on faith and work. I began the business based on the premise to provide to our community goods and services that nobody else provided. It has grown with everyone's help into a place of community gathering and sharing, a quick stop for real food and groceries, mail and package stop and so much more.

The experiences and joy, the people I have had the opportunity to meet and share my life with have been indescribable beyond words. I consider myself to be so beyond fortunate to have shared all of the experiences I have been able to enjoy. That includes all the crazy times and people I have had the pleasure to share with each and every one of you. But most of all I consider it to be a blessing to share all the food made with love, true friends I have made and all the true community connections we have been able to foster through the years of building our establishment.

I am so grateful to all my wonderful employees, customers and friends that have made this opportunity possible for all. Oh yes, and I forgot to tell you it will all be published in the book of Kestrel Kafe & Market. Will anyone believe it's really TRUE?????

Love you all and thank you for your support.

Please stop by and check us out if you've never experienced us. We will never stop trying to make a difference in your life. You'll be surprised at what you may find.!!

Year Anniversary
Kestrel Kafe & Market



Fresh Baked Treats, Organic & Healthy Selections Galore

Stop By And Check For Our Holiday Homemade Pies, Breads, Cakes and Goodies Call In Orders are Welcome

Special Orders & Catering Are Available Veggie/Cheese Trays, Casseroles, Etc.

Produce, Deli, Groceries, Meats, Beer & Wine, Fax & Copy Service, Extensive CBD Oil & Lotions We Are Here
To Be Your Local Grocer - Requests Welcome

We Have Triple Secure Mailboxes With Package Service Call To Inquire.

10390 S Sierrita Mtn Rd, - (520) 822-1714 Hours 8 am to 7:30 - 7 Days









ARE HERE!

Are you a last minute shopper? Have you been shopping for months already? Are you done and everything is perfectly wrapped?

No matter which of those you fit into swing by Double E this season and pick up a few things for family, friends, even host gifts!

When you shop with us you support a local family who supports our community with some of our local artists and makers.

> Don't forget to get all your pet and animal needs too.

We hope you all have a wonderful **Holiday Season**

Merry Christmas from The Epleys and the Double E Crew.





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Proudly Serving Three Points and Beyond Since 2016



Three Points Fire District

10351 South Sasabe Highway Tucson, Arizona 85736 Phone: (520) 822-1086

December News



Donate Toys For Christmas

The Three Points Fire District is still holding a toy donation at station 303 on Sasabe. Please feel free to stop by any time and donate any NEW UNWRAPPED toys.

If anyone is in need of toys this Christmas, they can call the front office and schedule a time to shop!

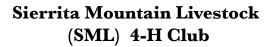
The next CPR class is January 10th, 9am at the 303 Fire Station 10351 S Sasabe Hwy.

It is now \$22 a person for the cards. Please call the fire department to reserve a spot.



The burn permits are still in fill swing! Don't forget to call the fire department to issue a burn permit before burning.





The SML 4-H Club meets at Serenity Baptist Church 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm

The 4H members have their show animals and have started their projects! The members have already participated in so many community events and road cleans to give back to the community.

We are excited to buy toys for the fire department's toy donation and for the holiday events to come!

Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday!

Happy Holidays

Sierrita Mountain Livestock 4-H Club









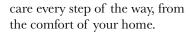


BAYADA offers personalized and reliable in-home assistance for up to 24 hours a day including personal care, household support, and companionship for seniors and adults who require assistance to enjoy independent, safe, and fulfilling lives in the comfort of their homes.

BAYADA's caregivers are trained and equipped to

provide care to those who need or prefer a higher level of one-on-one attention and care, such as those with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

Our caregivers meet the maximum standards of excellence possible and are fully dedicated to ensuring you and your loved ones receive the highest-quality



BAYADA Home Health Care is one of the largest and most trusted home health care providers in the world, and a nonprofit organization since 2017. Call BAYADA for a trusted caregiver today! 520-648-7170.

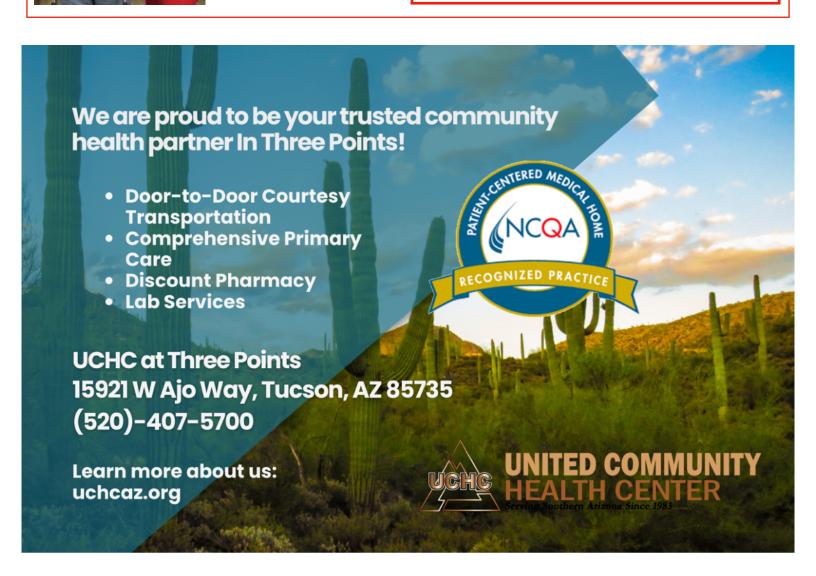




BAYADA offers assistance with activities of daily living/personal care, household support services, and companionship care.

The assessment and care plan are completed by our Registered Nurse, and our trained caregivers provide hourly care up to 24/7. Payors include private pay, long term care insurance, VA benefits, and worker's compensation.

520-648-7170 gv<u>aoffice@bayada.com</u>. www.bayada.com





Happy Holidays





Our meetings will resume in January.
Check the Events Calendar on The HUB
website for dates and times

GriefShare is a 13 week, faith based program for those who have lost a loved one. Each session is on a specific topic so you can attend as many sessions as you would like.

Our meetings take place at Serenity Baptist Church in the West Building. The address is 15501 W Ajo Highway.

If you are interested in getting more information please go to www.griefshare.org

You can register online at <u>www.griefshare.org</u> and use your zip code to "Find A Group".

It should bring up Serenity Baptist Church or contact Trish Sargent about the program at Serenity Baptist Church at <u>THSargent920@gmail.com</u>

The coffee is always on.



Happy Holidays

Did you know? Mary Kay has been in business for 61 years! It is still family owned. Is 100% debt free and their manufacturing plant in Lewisville, TX contributes ZERO to the landfills there.

The company has planted over 1 million trees with their recycling program. What an amazing legacy Mary Kay Ash has left. I am so proud to be a part of this company in some small way. It brings me joy knowing all the good the company does for our environment and others.

The Mary Kay Ash Foundation works to stop cancers that effect women by pouring 39 million dollars toward research since 1996 and since 2000 the Foundation has been committed to stopping the violence and breaking the silence

by supporting domestic violence organizations with donations of 57 million for what is needed.

Mary Kay, the lady thought she would never reach beyond Dallas, I for one am glad she was mistaken!



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2025 Recipient Of The Marion Whitfield Citizen of the Year Award Is Patricia Hastings-Sargent

Marion Whitfield was an amazing lady who worked tirelessly for our community. She was a founding member of Friends of Robles Ranch (FORR). One of her proudest accomplishments was working with FORR to get the Robles Ranch declared a historical site and eventually incorporated into a Pima County Community Center. When this was established she was one of the first directors of the center.



Marion was committed to helping youth in the area. She was part of the Community Substance Abuse Action Committee working with groups such as La Fonterra and Project Pep in the schools to help kids. She wrote grants for programs that would help teenagers learn employment skills and fund work programs for them to gain job experience. In 2012 FORR established a scholarship in her honor to be given to high school seniors who exemplified the spirit of volunteering in their community.

Marion Whitfield passed away on, March 15, 2015 at the age of 83.



In 2013 Friends of Roble Ranch created an award named the "Marion Whitfield Citizen of the Year". Marion was the first recipient at a luncheon at Robles Ranch.

This award was created to acknowledge members of our Three Points Community who volunteer for our community.

Since 2013, here is the list of recipients:

2013 - Marion Whitfield
2014 - Dane Miller
2015 - Pat King
2016 - Robert Ethridge
2017 - Patzi Hughes
2018 - W John Williams
2020 - Mohan Saini
2021 - Jason Khalaf
2022 - Tony Schenk
2023 - Virgina Ingram Moma V
2024 - Dan Tankersley
2019 - Chris Cathcart



At the November meeting of Friends of Robles Ranch, Trish Hastings-Sargent was surprised when she was awarded the 2025 Marion Whitfield Citizen of the Year Award.



Trish and her husband John restarted our local newsletter, The Fence Post, in May of 2012. They worked on it together until his death in 2021. Since then she has continued to publish our newsletter herself.

In addition to The Fence Post, Trish serves on a Pima County Grant Committee and tries to make sure our rural area is not overlooked. She also has created the **HUB Resource Guide**, a document on the **Hub** website that lists all organizations that provide services to our community. The links are live and anyone in need of a service can start their search for what they need in the privacy of their home.

Trish is active in Serenity Baptist Church and leads the Grief Share group for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

In a community like Three Points, Volunteerism is extremely important.

Volunteer-run organizations provide vital services that may not be available due to a lack of funding or professional staff. Rural volunteers are best positioned to identify and solve local problems, such as supporting local agriculture, organizing educational programs, and preserving local history and traditions.

Volunteering fosters a sense of unity, shared purpose, and belonging, which are vital for community well-being and cohesion, plus it is so much fun to be able to volunteer with your neighbors and friends.

The Hub is always looking for volunteers. *My Friends Closet*, our local Thrift Shop, is always in need of extra hands to help with the mounds of donations they receive. Donations need to be sorted, and prepared for sale within the shop. There is also a Coffee Bar available for shoppers to get coffee that needs occasional staffing.

Hub Events, needs extra hands to help set up and taking down community programs they have scheduled.

Come and join the fun. Become A Volunteer.

Go to the HUB website at

 $\underline{https://www.friendsofroblesranch.org/my-friends-closet}$

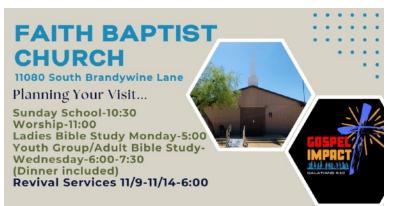
The Volunteer Application is with the My Friends Closet Store Hours.





Church Information





Are you interested in joining our Horizon Homeschool Community? We will be having "Visit our Class" days November 6th and 13th. Please email us at horizonrobles.homeschool@gmail.com for more information and to register to attend one of these days!

Come join us every Wednesday at 5:00 for Chess Club! Get to know more people in our community, learn the basic fundamentals of the game and practice your skills. Ages 10 through adults.





Our Christmas pageant will be December 25th starting at 7:00 with cookies and presents to follow.





Serenity Baptist Church

By Patzi Hughes, Ministry Assistant, Church Clerk

Please join us at 10:30 AM on Sunday for our worship service in the Main Sanctuary. Pastor Jerry is continuing his series on The Book of Acts

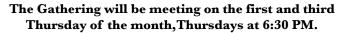
His wife, Cindy, has a special lesson for the kids (ages: infants-thru 5th grade), during Kids Karpet time. A special bag of treats is given to the kids (also some adults have been able to convince her to give them one!). Every other Sunday, the kids go to Kids World in the West Bldg with Scott & Jennifer Kruger, for fun & Bible story time.

We have signs on the campus facing East & West so look for upcoming events.

Serenity Sisters, meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday evening in the West Building.

Youth Group is on Wednesday night, 6:30 pm (ages 6th grade-12th grade) in the Main Sanctuary. Pastor Jerry leads the study time, Scott Kruger leads the game time. Jennifer Kruger, and Jennifer Williams help to serve food to the group.

Office hours are M-F, 9am-1pm, except holidays. If you have a question or have a need, please leave your name, phone#, and a brief message. Your call will be returned as quickly as possible.



This will be a time of praises, prayer, prayer requests and worship songs. Please join us in the Sanctuary so we can get to know each other.

All Are Welcome.

Food Ministry

Thursday morning is our drive-thru Food Ministry. We do our best with the donations we receive. Please come early, food goes quickly. And we need to know how many boxes we need for that day.

The FREE food is received from Caring Ministries in Tucson, Volunteers box the food inside the Main Sanctuary, and distribute the boxes to the community folks of Robles Junction/Three Points.

The Ministry hours are 8 am-9:30. We sometimes run out of food before 9:30 am but we try to make sure each vehicle gets a box. Come early to get in line, food goes quickly!





Christmas Eve Service 6 PM

No Service on Christmas Day

Church Office is closed Dec 24th, 25th & 26th

Church Office is closed Dec 31st, Jan 1st & Jan 2nd

U of A Cooperative Extension Monthly Garden Reminders for December

https://extension.arizona.edu/publication/pima-county-monthly-garden-reminders-december

December's moderate daytime temperatures make gardening more comfortable and enjoyable, but don't be fooled—freezing temperatures are still

possible for up to three more months. Be prepared to protect sensitive plants from cold nights by moving them indoors if possible or using frost cloth and other cold-protection methods. Avoid planting or transplanting cold-sensitive plants and be sure to know which plants can tolerate pruning or fertilizing during the winter months and which cannot.

Maintenance

- If you haven't already, move cold-sensitive potted plants indoors. This includes adeniums (desert roses) and other vulnerable succulents like pachypodiums and certain euphorbia. Place them in a sunny spot but keep them away from direct heat sources like vents.
- Watch for cold nights and protect plants as needed. Many plants are sensitive to 40 degrees, while others can tolerate much lower temperatures. Knowing your USDA Plant Hardiness zone helps localize your temperature expectations for plant protection.
- Do NOT prune frost-damaged plants until the danger of freezing is **Planting** past. Pruning now will only stimulate new plant growth, which is not recommended.
- Cap cold-sensitive cacti, such as totem pole, golden torch, Mexican fencepost, and young saguaro. Use a paper grocery bag or large Styrofoam cup to protect the delicate growing tip from the cold. Do not use plastic in direct contact with the plant; it will conduct cold not insulate. After the freeze, remove the cap, but keep it – you can reuse.
- Pick exposed lemons and limes before a hard freeze. Some damage to these fruits on upper and outer portions of the tree will occur when temperatures drop to 28 degrees. Other types of citrus fruits can handle cold temperatures better.
- Begin harvesting grapefruit at the end of the month, picking only those you need. The longer they stay on the tree, the sweeter they become. Fruit may be left on the tree for several months. Nearly all varieties of grapefruit that are suitable for our location are frost-hardy.
- Prune non-native deciduous trees and shrubs while dormant. Natives are best pruned when temps are warm.
- Delay pruning your spring-flowering shrubs until after they bloom.
- If you've previously had pest infestations on your roses, grapes, or deciduous flowering and fruiting trees, consider

- spraying the foliage with horticultural oil to kill overwintering insects. For the best results, apply the oil after winter pruning. Ensure thorough coverage, as the oil works by smothering insects hidden in the nooks and crannies of the woody growth.
- Keep poinsettias healthy by locating them away from drafts and direct sunlight. They prefer bright, indirect light during the day and a cool location at night. Keep the soil evenly moist, as over- or under-watering will cause the leaves to yellow and drop off. Fertilize monthly with a water-soluble "balanced" houseplant fertilizer. After all danger of frost is over, poinsettias can be planted outside in a shady location.
- Apply Btk (Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki) if caterpillars are damaging your cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, or cauliflower. Btk is safe for animals and humans but is lethal to all larvae of the Lepidoptera family (butterflies and moths). While effective, use it with care to avoid harming beneficial species.
- Now is a good time to consider planning or installing active or passive rainwater harvesting.

- Plant cold-hardy flowers into the ground such as snapdragons, nemesia, petunias, pansies, stock, alyssum, million bells (Calibrachoa), and geraniums. Choose a sunny spot as the flower yields will be improved.
- Seeds of cool-weather vegetables can be planted directly into the soil. Examples are leaf lettuces, peas, radishes, carrots, chard, kale, parsnips, and beets.

Fertilizing

- Continue with mild fertilizing of winter vegetables.
- Over-seeded Bermudagrass lawns need applications of a nitrogen fertilizer once per month.
- Other uses of fertilizer are not advised. Fertilizers stimulate new growth that will be frost-sensitive.

Watering

- Adjust your outdoor irrigation frequencies (not duration) for December. If there are ample rains, consider turning your system off. Keep an eye on your tender annual plants to ensure they are receiving adequate moisture.
- If you brought potted succulents indoors to protect them, water these very sparingly during this time.





Altar Valley School District News





Message from Superintendent Dr. David Dumon

Celebrating AVSD's State Letter Grade - 'B'

Dear Altar Valley Families,

The Arizona Department of Education recently released the 2024–2025 A–F School Letter Grades for public schools across the state. These reports provide valuable insight into student achievement, college and career readiness, and student growth. The ratings are based on last year's AASA and AzSCI assessment results for students in grades 3–8.

It is with great pride that I share that the **Altar Valley School District earned** a **'B' letter grade** on the state's A–F accountability system. This recognition reflects our strong performance on state assessments and the significant academic growth happening across our district. Additionally, **Altar Valley Middle School received a 'C' rating,** and I am **thrilled** to announce that **Robles Elementary increased its rating to a 'B'!**

While we are encouraged by our districtwide progress and Robles' growth, we recognize that there is still important work

ahead. The data shows many positive trends, and it also reminds us of the need to stay focused on ensuring every student reaches their full potential. Our commitment to continuous improvement remains strong as we work to Build, Grow, Flourish, and Succeed at AVSD.



I am incredibly proud of our students, teachers, and staff who work hard every day to achieve these results. As we move forward, our priority remains accelerated learning at both schools. The dedicated educators of Altar Valley are prepared and motivated to provide the support and resources our students need to truly thrive.

Wishing you all the Happiest of Holidays!

Build, Grow, Flourish, and Succeed!

Dr. Dave Dumon Superintendent, Altar Valley School District

Full articles, and more pictures are on the AVSD website Please click on the links to read the articles.

Message from Robles Principal Dustie Gunn, MAED; MBA

A Strong Finish to 2025: December News for Robles Families https://sites.google.com/avsd.org/december2025january2026/bobcat-bulletin

Robles Preschool: Learning Through Play and Exploration

https://sites.google.com/avsd.org/ december2025january2026/bobcatbulletin







Message from Altar Valley Middle School Principal, Riki Valdez

Soaring into December: Important Updates for Eagle Families

https://sites.google.com/avsd.org/december2025january2026/ eagle-pride

Family Resource Center, By Diana Cordova

 $\frac{https://sites.google.com/avsd.org/december 2025 january 2026 / family-resource-center}{}$















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