

Guided by goodness, loyalty, faith, and fun

# TRUE NORTH LIVING

18/1

## Inspired Aging Reimagine Elderhood



Starting the Conversation  
Let's look Alzheimer's in the eye this year

Compliments of  
**DESERT PEAKS**  
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

PLEASE TAKE ONE





Dennis Garboden, President  
*Compass Senior Living*

## from the President

### Does a company's mission statement mean anything?

That is a question that I did not think about much until we started Compass Senior Living. I have been involved in other companies that had "mission statements" and "values". My experience was that these were words

that some in the company thought were a requirement to have as a company – but they had no actual meaning – and no Life.

When we started Compass Senior Living, we wanted a company that was founded on the belief that we are good people that will surround ourselves with good people. When we'd try and define the "type" of person we wanted to be associated with – the simplest and truest description was simply...Goodness.

So, when we were planning our new company in 2013 we knew that we wanted to have a Mission Statement that would describe us and describe those we wanted to associate ourselves with. We chose four words: Goodness, Loyalty, Faith, Fun.

**Goodness** – Be good, do good.

**Loyalty** – Be loyal to one another and have one another's back, especially in hard times.

**Faith** – Have faith that if you do the right things – the right things will happen.

**Fun** – in work, in life, in relationships...it is important to have balance and fun can be that balance.



"Guided by Goodness, Loyalty, Faith, and Fun" became our mission. This statement guides our decision-making. We ask ourselves when interviewing – Is this person someone that is good and loyal? Has the faith to do the right thing? Laugh easily and smile often?

Goodness is true north. This formed our "Compass" and in doing so, we not only have our mission statement for guidance – but we can also ask what our true north direction is. Is it goodness?



## Would you like a FREE subscription to *True North Living Magazine*?

Please email [abarela@desertpeaksal.com](mailto:abarela@desertpeaksal.com) or call 575.523.0300 or stop by 5525 Cotton Bloom CT., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

To learn more about True North Elderhood, check out our website at [www.desertpeaksal.com](http://www.desertpeaksal.com) or follow our True North Elderhood blog at <https://truenorthelderhood.wordpress.com>.



# Starting the Conversation

Let's look Alzheimer's in the eye this year

## **Caring is what makes us human**

Over the last few months our Director of Education and Innovation, Jean Garboden, and I have traveled to several Compass Senior Living communities to conduct training we call Caring is What Makes Us Human: Empathetic communication with those who have dementia. It has evolved into a powerful and engaging series of stories that reflect the more than 10 years we've been working to try to understand dementia and find a better way to care for those who have it. Our employees are required to attend. It's those that are not required to attend that inspire me.

For several of the trainings elders and families have joined us. Recently, I was inspired looking out at the elders' faces that were engaged in the conversation—unafraid of what they'd learn. They aren't afraid of knowing what Alzheimer's or other dementias can do. And, with their presence, they are facing it head-on. Elders may see this daily amongst their peers and wonder, "am I next"? And yet, they were the ones most interested in learning what it means, how to understand, and how they can care for others.

## **Engaging in the conversation**

These elders inspire me because they are engaging in the conversation that most are too afraid to have. They are arming themselves with the knowledge that will help to eliminate fear. They are building understanding that those with dementia are still "in there" and they



are whole human beings to be loved-- not feared. They are showing us that age, impairments, and change are to be understood and accepted. The elders that choose to engage are ambassadors powerfully making a better elderhood future for the rest of us.

## **Disrupt the fear about Alzheimer's**

Like cancer, the movement to find a cure for Alzheimer's is growing because most of us know, or have known, someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia. If you haven't yet, you will. By learning about dementia and how we can communicate with those who have it, you join the movement to change language around "locked units". They are not prisoners to be locked away. They are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, aunts, and uncles. They simply need us to look them in the eye, sing to them, dance with them, and know they still desire to be heard and understood.

## **Resolve to learn more**

As this new year starts please make a resolution that will make real change with one simple act. Resolve to learn more, participate in conversations, and try to understand Alzheimer's and other dementias. Follow in these elders' footsteps and learn what you can do to help just one individual. After all, caring is what makes us human.

•••••

Amira Fahoum, Director of Operations, NW Region for Compass Senior Living. [afahoum@compass-living.com](mailto:afahoum@compass-living.com)

Join us every Thursday for Bingo and every Friday for Happy Hour. Call for times.

- January: Winter Wonderland**
- February: Hugs and Kisses Valentines Dance**
- March: St. Patty's all out Green for March!**

For a calendar of FREE events:

Please email [abarela@desertpeaksal.com](mailto:abarela@desertpeaksal.com) or call 575.523.0300 or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DesertPeaksAL/> to get notifications of dates and times of our events.

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS



# Inspired Aging. . .

reimagine elderhood



It annoys me when people say, ‘Even if you’re old, you can be young at heart!’ Hiding inside this well-meaning phrase is a deep cultural and stereotypical assumption that old is bad and young is good. What’s wrong with being old at heart, I’d like to know? Wouldn’t you like to be loved by people whose hearts have practiced loving for a long time?

I travel around the United States and visit with elders who are 80, 90 and 100+ years old. I am inspired and amazed, that for many of them, no matter what their physical or cognitive challenges, the one thing they all have in common is that they are curious, interesting, and passionate life-long learners.

*People who perceive themselves as lifelong learners often are “superagers,” remaining vital and cognitively resilient through very old age.*

Between 1900 and 2000, average life expectancy increased by nearly 30 years in the United States and most other developed countries of the world. For the first time in history, most people now being born can expect to live seven, eight, nine, or more decades. This changes not only the trajectory of individual lives but also the shape of societies. Adults 60 and older are now the fastest-growing segment of our population.



**This increase in longevity gives rise to new important questions:**

- What do we want to do with an extra 30 years?
- How should we, as individuals and as a society, shape the direction and purpose of our longer lives?
- Can we design a path to our future that improves the well-being and opportunities of people at all ages?
- Should we be creating new social and business policies that will foster these opportunities?
- How do we prepare young people for longer lives—and can these questions be answered in ways that would be beneficial for all generations?
- How do I personally reimagine a purposeful lifestyle for myself?



**We have added 30 years to our lives**, not just for the lucky few but for the majority of people in the developed world. The truth is that we have created a new stage of life called Elderhood - but have not yet envisioned its purpose, meaning, and opportunities.

**What does this new stage of life mean?**

- Psychologists Erik and Joan Erikson viewed later life as a time when the impulse to give back to society becomes an urgent need.
- Carl Jung, an early psychologist with interest in the challenges of the second half of life, saw older age as a fertile period of spiritual growth and individuation.
- Betty Friedan, a social psychologist, researched aging late in her life and suggested that there is a “fountain of age,” a period of renewal, growth, and experimentation based on a new freedom.
- Dr. Bill Thomas, a geriatrician, is at the forefront of a strong nationwide movement to reframe life after adulthood, which is Elderhood, as an exciting stage of human growth and development. In his book *Second Wind*, he explores the dreams and disappointments, the struggles and triumphs of a generation of 78 million

people who once said they would never grow old and never trust anyone over thirty.

Having created a new stage of life, Elderhood - the next step is to make these extra 30 years meaningful! For some of us it may be:

- **Choosing a healthy lifestyle** so that the extra 30 years of life can be vibrant.
- **Volunteering or working** in jobs to make the world a better place; creating a legacy through service, mentoring and activism to benefit future generations.
- **Embracing new paradigms for aging** to realize our potential. Reinventing our life, and doing something we have always dreamed about but never had the opportunity to do.
- **Assuming the Elder teaching**

**role** as the conduit to connect the generations to restore the broken connections in our culture. Even the frailest elder has something to teach us, if we, as students, recognize the elder wisdom as an opportunity to actualize their purpose and legacy.

The truth is, we don't yet know what Elderhood, this new stage of life, can be, but the first step is to change the lens through which we view aging and challenge our stereotypical assumptions.

No matter what our age or frailty or ability, we are always fully capable human beings. Until our last breath, we are evolving, and are in a period of renewal, growth, and experimentation.

.....

About the author: Jean Garboden is the Director of Education and Innovation at Compass Senior Living located in Eugene, Oregon. Jean is an elder advocate, and Eden Alternative Educator with over 30 years' experience in not-for-profit and for-profit health care organizations. She is honored to lead the mission and culture development for Compass Senior Living. Email: [jgarboden@compass-living.com](mailto:jgarboden@compass-living.com)





# The Power of Connection

At Desert Peaks, we believe that trusting relationships are the most basic of human needs and the strongest foundation for caring for one another.

In Mountain Vistas, our memory support neighborhood, we invited four elders to join us on the patio outside in the beautiful New Mexico sunshine for Circle of Friends™, a Compass True North program. One person was falling asleep, another in a grouchy mood, another who didn't talk much, and a fourth person who was confused, but engaged and eager to connect.

As we sat close to one another in the circle we sang "You are my sunshine" and we saw the energy began to increase. After singing several rounds of the song we welcomed each person, saying their name as we made eye contact and a handshake. Then we began discussing the beautiful day, and some of the elders began to talk. We talked about family and the beauty of nature. I said, "I love New Mexico, it is called the land of..." three of them responded quickly, "Enchantment!" "Right! New Mexico is indeed the land of Enchantment."

Susie had her eyes closed but began to smile. We switched up the energy a bit, as we recalled playing together outside, and played balloon volleyball. After about three minutes, Susie's eyes popped open, and with a big smile on her face, she joined the fun! As the balloon bounced off some of our heads or went flying into the bushes, we all laughed. The balloon landed on a sharp thorn and made a loud pop! We all laughed even harder.

We talked about how important family, friends, and connections are, and everyone except Susie spoke – but she had the biggest smile! We closed by saying each person's

name and expressing gratitude for them. "Thank you for being a part of our circle today, you made my day!" Then we held hands and sang 'Amazing Grace'.



We experienced a powerful human connection with one another. The elders felt valued as whole and capable – and so did we! We felt loved. We felt safe. We all contributed with a purpose in making another person's day better.

We can all begin today to recognize and value the power of human connections. We can have the courage to offer a part of our soul and to seek it in another. We can do this with our residents, our family members, our co-team members, our bosses, our siblings, our mates, our friends, and our colleagues. We can all do this – even with the disconnection and the discord all around us. We can do this for the soul of the world.



Marissa Ramirez  
*Mountain Vistas Wellness Coordinator*  
mramirez@desertpeaksal.com

Adriana Garcia  
*Life Enrichment Director*  
agarcia@desertpeaksal.com

Learn more about  
Desert Peaks True North Programs  
at [www.desertpeaksal.com](http://www.desertpeaksal.com)



# #Gen2000



## What is it like to go on the internet for the very first time – at age 91?!

Our teen Volunteer program closes the gap between the Millennials and their elders as they come together to learn about how to stay connected to the world and to family through our #GEN2000 project. The youth and the Greatest Generation are coming together to bridge the largest generation gap ever – learning from one another, forging relationships, and making connections unlike any other time in history. The #GEN2000 Project is changing lives.

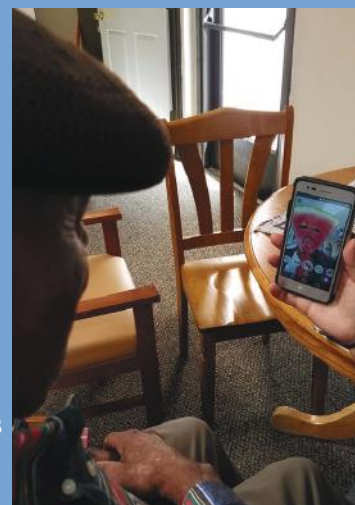


Mr. Charles Miller has lived over 90 years on this earth without ever once checking an email, watching a YouTube clip, or signing on to Facebook. But recently as part of the #GEN2000 Teen Volunteer program he and his wife Mary now SKYPE with their family every week. He said, “I like working with Abbey and Trevor. They are nice kids, and they are excellent at helping. I’ve learned a lot from them already, and I’ll always wish them nothing but the best.”

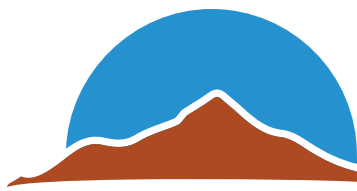
Trevor Frieze, Centennial High School Ambassador says, “#GEN2000 is a really unique program. I never even thought about working with elders. It has really been eye opening and life changing. Watching the residents interact with their family over different forms of technology really shows how they are just like us. I’ve realized that age doesn’t matter. We are all the same.”

.....

Walter Williams, upon seeing snapchat and watching YouTube said, “With my head being as old as it is, I just wonder how young girls like you come up with something like that ‘internet’ . After all the years I’ve been here now, what I call miracles can happen every day.”



Welcome to



# DESERT PEAKS

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE



Guadalupe Valles, Wellness Director, Adriana Garcia, Life Enrichment Director, Marissa Ramirez, Mountain Vistas Wellness Coordinator, Heather Schwab, Administrator, Pete Frias, Maintenance Director, Angelica Barela, Community Relations Coordinator, Raymond Craig, Dining Services Director

Our team believes if you do the right thing, the right things happen, and you will hear a lot of laughter. Our team is guided by goodness, loyalty, faith, and fun. You will notice that this is more than a job for our care team.

***This is passion and commitment.***



A bit of decadence from our

# Dark Chocolate Raspberry Bark



Prep time: 2 hours Cook time: 5 mins Total time: 2 hours 5 mins

## Ingredients

- 10-16 ounces dark chocolate
- 6-8 ounces raspberries

## Instructions

1. Place a piece of parchment paper or foil on a flat tray.
2. Rub cookie cutters with oil.
3. Melt Chocolate according to package directions.
4. Pour or spoon chocolate into cookie cutters (1-2 ounces per cookie cutter) reserving some for the topping.
5. Place raspberries upside down into the chocolate while it is still soft.
6. Chill for 30-60 minutes, until it is solid enough to be removed from cookie cutters.
7. Drizzle remaining chocolate over the tops of the raspberries.
8. Chill in the refrigerator for another 30-60 minutes.
9. Store leftovers in the refrigerator.

● ● ● ● ●

# Dark Chocolate Strawberry Smoothie

*Dark chocolate, creamy greek yogurt, and sweet strawberries are the perfect combination in this frosty heart healthy Dark Chocolate Strawberry Smoothie!*

Prep Time: 5 minutes Total Time: 5 minutes Servings: 2

## Ingredients

- 1/2 cup nonfat or lowfat strawberry Greek yogurt
- 3/4 cup frozen strawberries
- 1 cup skim milk or milk of choice
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened dark cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup ice only if using fresh berries

## Instructions

1. Place all ingredients in a blender (or Bullet, food processor, etc.) and blend until smooth.
2. Pour into a glass and top with sliced fresh strawberries, if desired. Enjoy immediately!



Kitchen to yours. . .

# Greek Yogurt Honey Blueberry Muffins

## Ingredients

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup + 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup low-fat greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup whole milk  
(you may use another fat percentage if preferred)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup olive OR coconut oil (if using coconut oil,  
be sure it is above room temperature and melted)
- 1 cup blueberries

## Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners; set aside.
3. In a large bowl whisk together flours, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon; set aside.
4. In a medium bowl whisk together the yogurt, milk, vanilla, eggs, honey, and oil.
5. Gently fold the yogurt mixture into the flour mixture, and using a spatula, fold until combined, being sure to mix just until all the flour disappears. Fold in blueberries.
6. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin tins, place pan in the oven, and bake for 18 minutes, reducing the heat to 375 degrees after 9 minutes of baking.
7. Allow the muffins to cool for 5 minutes in the pan before carefully transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely.

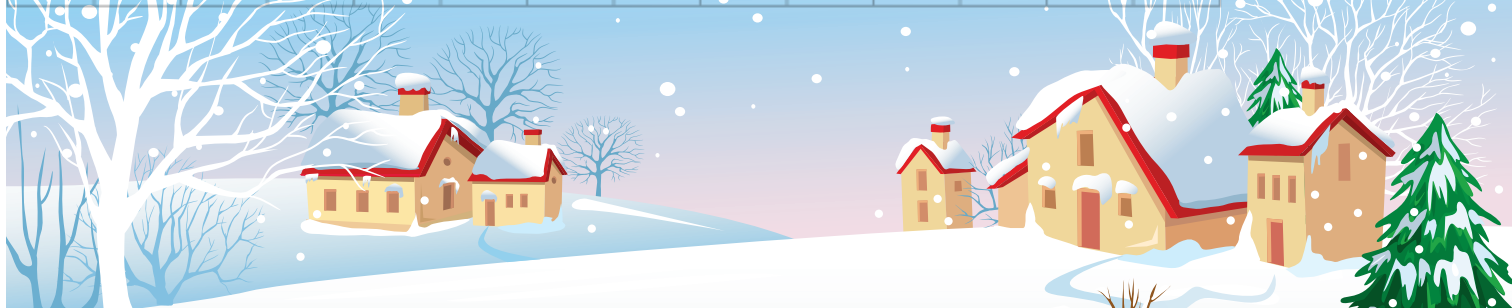


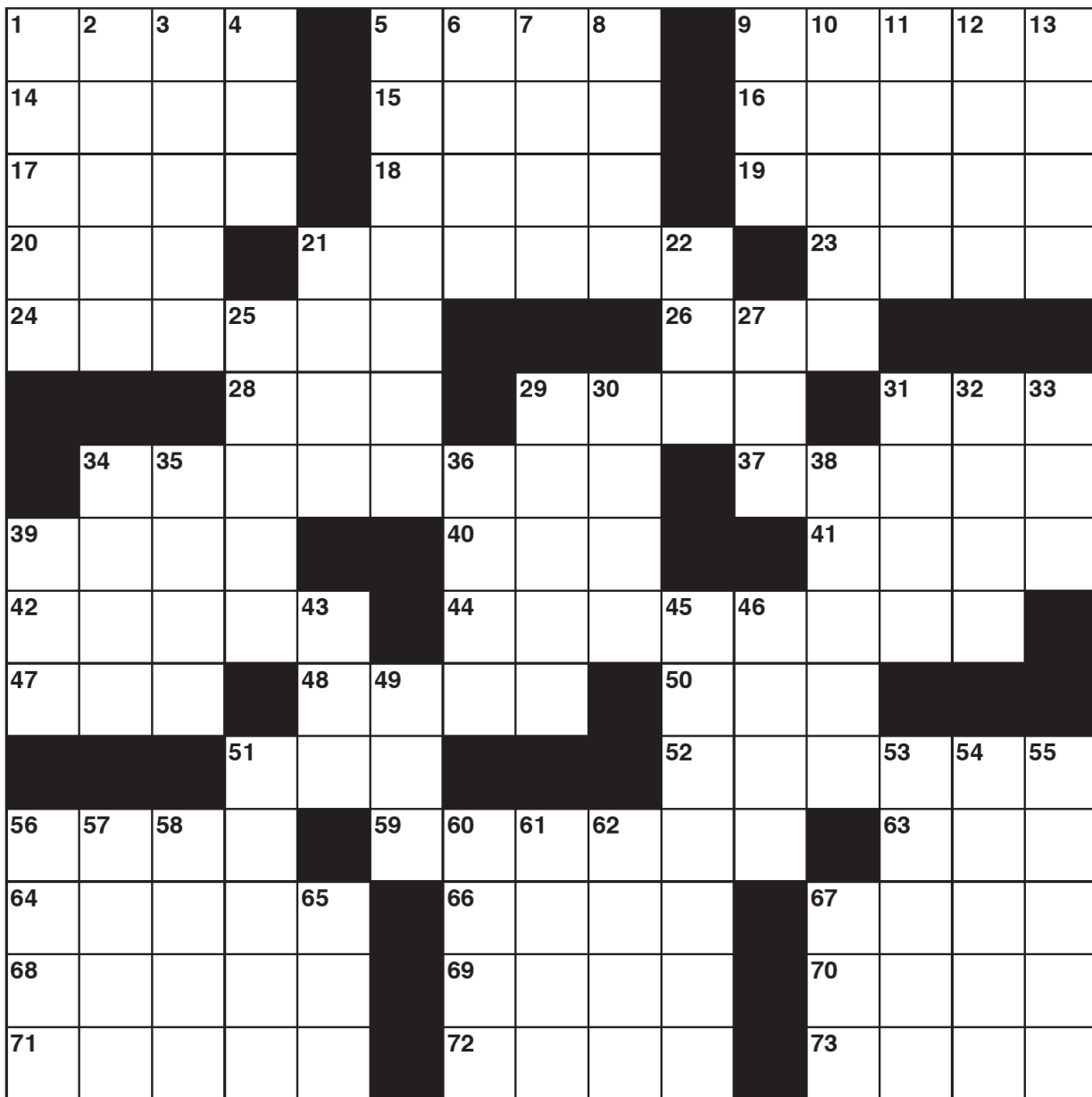


# Brain Games

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

- SLEDDING
- SNOWBALL
- SNOWFALL
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- FROZEN
- BLIZZARD
- WONDERLAND
- SKATING
- SNOWFLAKE
- SKIING
- NIPPY
- WINTER
- ICICLE
- FROSTY
- GLISTEN





**DOWN**

- 1 Jewish religious leader
- 2 Abraham's son
- 3 British princess
- 4 Convert into leather
- 5 Sub's weapon
- 6 Voiced
- 7 Soft cheese from Greece
- 8 Wields
- 9 Night bird
- 10 First processes in the freezing of water
- 11 Clock sound
- 12 Decorative needle case
- 13 Loch \_\_ monster
- 21 Cut open
- 22 Beret
- 25 Shut down
- 27 Clock time
- 29 Plant with shiny leaves, red berries and prickly edges
- 30 Singing voice
- 31 Make unclear
- 32 Petite
- 33 Delivery service
- 34 Snob
- 35 Make over
- 36 Animal house
- 38 Utilization
- 39 Expert
- 43 Revolutions per minute
- 45 Melted ore
- 46 Certain
- 49 Operate
- 51 Type of wood
- 53 Long, skinny boat
- 54 Rank
- 55 Freezing rain
- 56 Throw off
- 57 Tub spread
- 58 Singular form of name for Russian pancakes served with sour cream
- 60 European monetary unit
- 61 Frozen form of precipitation that falls as ice crystals
- 62 What a clock tells
- 65 Affirmative
- 67 High naval rank (abbr.)

**ACROSS**

- |                                     |                                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Chasm                             | 28 Container top                      | 52 Constructs         |
| 5 Meat alternative                  | 29 Head coverings                     | 56 Baseball player Ty |
| 9 Many times                        | 31 Energy unit                        | 59 Nuzzle             |
| 14 Afloat                           | 34 Code                               | 63 Cause of sickness  |
| 15 Mined metals                     | 37 Spring flower                      | 64 Blend of metals    |
| 16 Make a letter                    | 39 Greek god of war                   | 66 Troop              |
| 17 Farm building                    | 40 Alternative (abbr.)                | 67 Stake              |
| 18 Evaluate                         | 41 Phoenix's Basketball team          | 68 Weighted fishnet   |
| 19 Place                            | 42 Fermented juice of the apple       | 69 Capital of Italy   |
| 20 Pouch                            | 44 List of definitions                | 71 Frozen pizza brand |
| 21 Hit the water                    | 47 Self-esteem                        | 72 Payable            |
| 23 Runners used to travel over snow | 48 Quarry                             | 73 Get together       |
| 24 Tapered spike of frozen water    | 50 Heavy drinking cup made of pottery |                       |
| 26 Feign                            | 51 Flightless bird                    |                       |



<p>1.</p> <p><b>FACE</b></p>	<p>2.</p> <p><b>EGG EGG HAM</b></p>
<p>3.</p> <p><b>BUR</b></p>	<p>4.</p> <p>THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS THUMBS...</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>TEEF FEET TEEF</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>FAMILY SHEEP</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>po<b>FISH</b>nd</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE ISSUE</p>
<p>9.</p> <p><b>TIME</b></p> <p>a b d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z</p>	<p>10.</p> <p>DAYSALLWORK</p>

Brain Game Answers:

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

Solutions:

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

- Red in the face
- Green Eggs and Ham
- Backrub
- All thumbs
- Two left feet
- Black sheep of the family
- Big fish in a little pond
- Tennis shoes
- Long time, no see
- All in a day's work

Resource Credits:  
 Page 10 & 11: Premeditatedleftovers.com; JessicaLevinson.com; BakerbyNature.com  
 Pages 12-15: thewordsearch.com; qets.com; puzzle-to-print.com; FaberCastell.com





*“There’s a long life ahead of you, and it’s going to be beautiful, as long as you keep loving and hugging each other.” – Yoko Ono*

**Desert Peaks** believes that trusting relationships are the most basic of human needs and the strongest foundation for caring for one another. We are creating a place where elders, families, and employees are growing and teaching each other.

We nurture and encourage family connections.

Join us for a meal or a cup of coffee, hot chocolate or tea. Experience our family for yourself.

**Call** 575.523.0300

**Email** [abarela@desertpeaksal.com](mailto:abarela@desertpeaksal.com)



5525 Cottonbloom Court | Las Cruces, New Mexico  
[desertpeaksal.com](http://desertpeaksal.com)

 a Compass Senior Living community

