

THE MOUNT LEMMON ECHOES

A publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association

mtlemmonhoa.org

Work Begins to Improve Sabino Canyon Parkway and Add Needed Parking Spaces

Construction is underway on long-anticipated improvements to Sabino Canyon Parkway, funded through a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant in partnership with Pima County and the Coronado National Forest. The goal, explained Beth Borozan, from the Supervisor's Office and Don Del Mastro our District Ranger, is to improve access, safety, and visitor experience.

Beth and Don outlined the scope of the project: a new 75-space paved parking lot, a public restroom, and a trail information kiosk for the Arizona Trail. Crews will also resurface about half a mile of Sabino Canyon Parkway add 21 on-street parking spaces, and build a five-foot-wide paved pathway to serve as a non-wilderness bypass for the Arizona Trail.

These upgrades are designed to relieve the long-standing congestion at the Marshall Gulch Trailhead, where limited parking and heavy pedestrian use create safety concerns. The Federal Highway Administration's Central Federal Lands Division held its pre-construction meeting October 17, with crews mobilizing soon after.

As part of site preparation, approximately 500 trees will be removed. The Forest Service is working to ensure some of this timber is put to good use, including tentative plans to sell logs to a Tucson cabinet maker. The area near the old school is being cleared, and residents are urged to use caution and stay alert to the ongoing work and traffic.

A companion contract administered by the U.S. Forest Service, valued at roughly \$4.7 million, is proceeding just behind the FLAP phase after receiving supplemental federal funding. When complete, the project will provide safer parking, smoother access, and a greatly improved trail connection for everyone who visits Mt. Lemmon's most popular hiking area.

Construction activity will continue through spring 2026, weather permitting. Motorists are encouraged to be mindful of crews and equipment along Sabino Canyon Parkway



Tree clearing near the old schoolhouse

2026 Chili Challenge was a Hot Time on a Rainy Afternoon!

A little rain didn't cool things down at this year's Mt. Lemmon Chili Challenge, held on a damp October afternoon that tested the dedication of even the most loyal chili fans. While the weather kept a few folks from venturing out, the die-hards arrived ready to sample the mountain's best.

The tasting tables were a feast for the senses, featuring green chili, red chili, white chili, vegetarian chili, buffalo chili, a three-meat chili loaded with kielbasa, and even Ohio-style chili served over spaghetti. Add cornbread, tortillas, shredded cheese, sour cream, and all the fixin's, and no one left hungry. The air was filled with chatter and the aroma of roasted peppers and spice.

This year's talented contestants included Sally Crum, Luann Waldron, Julie Halvad, Pascal Wright, Diana Osborne, John Perchorowicz, Dan Leade, Kolleen Lightner, and Tom Partridge, each bringing their own twist on this timeless favorite. Tasters sampled them all, then cast their ballots by dropping tickets into brown paper bags in front of each pot—the traditional mountain-style voting system.

When the votes were tallied, 3rd place went to Luann Waldron for her creamy white chili, a hit with the "not-too-spicy-please" crowd. 2nd place went to MLFD's own Capt. Dan Leade, whose hearty "Dad Chili" kept things classic and flavorful. Taking 1st place was Pascal Wright, who stepped in for his dad, Tim, and wowed tasters with a standout chili verde con pollo.

A big thank-you goes to Linda Currin and to Sally and Lou Crum for helping with setup and cleanup—and to Jenni Zimmerman, for coordinating this much-loved annual event.



1st place: Pascal Wright



2nd place: Dan Leade



3rd place: Luann Waldron



From the desk of Supervisor Steve Christy
Submitted by Beth Borozan

I am rarely at a loss for words, just ask my colleagues, and I seldom speak in less than full sentences. Last month, we looked for a jump when my column ended mid-sentence had a good laugh. What follows is a freshened balance of that column, providing you with a recap of recent activity.

Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis tells me the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions' Resiliency and Mitigation Council is currently drafting its report, with the final version due to the governor in December, which will outline recommendations to address both wildfire danger mitigation and insurance challenges.

We are delighted, and relieved, that the long anticipated Federal Land Access Program Grant project for Marshall Gulch started in mid-October. Upon completion, the US Forest Service parking lot, the new 21 on-street parking spaces and public restrooms will greatly enhance both the visitor experience and ease village congestion. In addition, about a half mile of Sabino Canyon Park Road will be rehabilitated, and a 5-foot-wide pathway will be installed as part of the Arizona Trail Passage. USFS is the lead agency on this project and expects completion of the Pima County improvements next summer.

Another mountain project involves the installation of removable speed bumps along Sabino Canyon Parkway to calm traffic through the Summerhaven business district. The village is one area among others in the county where our Transportation Department will be testing this novel approach. Staff is working to finalize the vendor and product selection and plans a spring 2026 installation.

Finally, we were pleased that our Transportation team and the Sheriff's Department were able to successfully expedite and complete a special event permit for Oktoberfest with the Ski Valley operators. This year's four-weekend event was a well-attended, safe, and enjoyable experience for all.

As we complete our ninth year, my District 4 team and I thank you for the opportunity to be of service, and wish you all a wonderful holiday season.



President's Corner
Sally Crum



As autumn settles across our mountain, there's a quiet beauty that takes hold — the golden aspens, the crisp air, and that unmistakable hush that follows a busy summer season. The mountain seems to exhale, and so do we. It's a time to look back with gratitude on another remarkable year in our little community.

We shared laughter at the Pancake Breakfast, friendly rivalry at the Chili Challenge, and celebration at the ribbon-cutting of our beautiful new Fire Station. We supported one another through challenges and change, said goodbye to dear friends who've moved on, and welcomed new neighbors who've discovered the magic of Mount Lemmon. Together, we've accomplished so much — from Firewise clean-ups and water system improvements to the continued beautification of our village. None of it happens without your volunteer spirit, your donations, and your care for this mountain we all love.

Your MLHOA works closely with Supervisor Christy's office advocating for many projects to benefit our mountain community. Real progress has been made this year: The FLAP grant project is underway, Pima County continues to represent our interests to the State on affordable and available fire insurance, and the establishment/implementation of a County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Many thanks here at our year end for Supervisor Christy and his fabulous righthand, Beth Borozan.

As the snow begins to dust the pines and many cabins grow quiet for the season, I want to remind everyone to continue supporting our local businesses year-round. They're part of what keeps this community thriving even when the crowds are gone. And please consider contributing to the Fire Hydrant Fund — an investment in safety that benefits us all.

Thank you for your friendship, your energy, and your heart. Serving as your HOA President has been an honor beyond measure. As we head into the holidays and another year ahead, I'm filled with hope and gratitude for all we've built together — and for all that's still to come.

Happy Holidays and here's to 2026!

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MLFD News
Dan Leade

Winter Driving Tips

Winter is right around the corner, and even though last year was a lean winter as far as precipitation, any mountain road can be perilous with even the smallest accumulation of snow and ice. Thankfully, the American Automobile Association (AAA) has put together some tips for driving in adverse weather.

First and foremost, stay home if you do not need to be out in unfavorable conditions, but if you must, remember to drive, accelerate, and decelerate slowly. Know your brakes, but do not stop completely unless absolutely necessary, especially when traversing uphill to preserve momentum. Also, do not attempt to power uphill because your tires may spin and lose traction. Ensure tires are properly inflated and in good condition before leaving, the 4x4 is operational and chains/snow tires functional.

It is best practice to be prepared for emergencies in advance. AAA recommends that "if visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout that you should pull off the road to a safe place and remain there until conditions improve, avoiding the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles cannot see yours on the shoulder." This is a very important recommendation since we have lots of blind curves and heavy equipment to contend with. Learn where pullouts are and use them if an emergency occurs.

Being prepared is paramount for survival if you get stuck in the snow for an extended period of time. AAA states, "keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, like food, water, warm clothing, flashlights, glass scrapers, blankets, medications, and more." Consider a shovel to keep your exhaust pipe free from becoming packed with snow (carbon monoxide poisoning) and make sure to start your trip with at least half a tank of fuel.

For more advice, search "AAA Winter Driving Tips"

November Calendar of Events

1	2-4 pm Blooms &Stems (Lodge) Floral arranging session
9	10 am Movement on the Mountain (Lodge) Yoga
15	8:30 am Water District Mtg. (old school house) 1:00 MLWC Mtg. (Wilmot Library) 2-4 pm Blooms &Stems (Lodge)
23	10 am Movement on the Mountain (Lodge)
27	THANKSGIVING DAY! Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lodge
28	Shopping and Leftovers!
29	10 am - 5 pm Shop Small on the Mountain Holliday Pop-up Market (Lodge)

Holiday Magic at the Mt. Lemmon Lodge

Saturday Dec. 20th: Holiday Fest
Thursday, Dec. 25th 6 pm: Christmas Dinner



MLHOA Updates

At October's MLHOA meeting, members covered a wide range of community topics — from fire-safety funding to water management and parking logistics.

Discussion centered on the Water Improvement District's plans for infrastructure upgrades and the ongoing effort to install new fire hydrants. Costs have risen beyond earlier estimates, with the hydrants and related piping expected to exceed \$20,000. Members talked about how the MLHOA and larger community might assist, including pledged donations and fundraising. The Board will examine the feasibility of creating a GoFundMe campaign, through the Firefighters' Foundation. This approach would allow for the fundraising effort to reach a broader audience. This could also be the impetus for creating a "Friends of Mount Lemmon" group which is an idea the Board has discussed before.

Other housekeeping items included the upcoming parking-sticker distribution. The new sticker will be valid for two-ears and cost \$10.

This was the last MLHOA meeting of the year. Meetings will begin again in 2026 and the Annual Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Venue to be determined.



MLWC members ready for trick and treating!

MLWC News

The Mount Lemmon Woman's Club gathered for its October meeting, opening as members welcomed new faces, approved corrected minutes, and reviewed correspondence thanking the club for its recent donations to the Aviva Children's Foundation and the Dress a Girl Organization, both of which praised the club's generosity and community spirit.

Plans are well underway for the Holiday Brunch, set for Saturday, December 6 at the Ventana Lodge. Robin Kirk will circulate an Evite soon, and members are reminded to pay early so final counts can be confirmed. The popular buffet format returns this year, along with plenty of good cheer (and optional mimosas at the cash bar).

Members also approved support for Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The Club will collect school supplies for children served by Emerge and continue its annual holiday "Done-in-a-Day" project, providing \$25 gift cards—primarily to Fry's and Walmart—for families at Keeling and Holoway Schools. Last year's drive raised nearly \$2,500, and the goal is to match or exceed that in 2025. Members may also "adopt" a family through the program.

Looking ahead, the Club will form a nominating committee to prepare for officer elections in April. President Sandi Triplett and Vice President Luann Waldron announced plans to step down but promised to remain as active mentors.

Suzanne Hensel, author of *Look to the Mountain*, was present and explained a bit about a new forthcoming edition. The MLWC will assist Suzanne with a loan to cover the expensive upfront costs associated with printing. The MLWC did this previously with the first edition. The new edition is hoped to be available sometime in early(ish) 2026.

The next MLWC meeting will be held November 15 at the Wilmot Library in Tucson, featuring a guest speaker from Aviva Children's Services.



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Water Improvement District Update

In his manager's report to the Water Improvement District Board, Nate Davis noted recent rains (about three and a half inches) have added roughly 225,000 gallons to the system. Stage 3 curtailment remains in effect for now, though the district will reassess in the coming weeks. Crews continue annual meter inspections and system maintenance, which have prompted a few curious calls when technicians appeared on private properties.

Financial reports were approved, and discussion followed on past-due accounts and the ongoing transition to a new bookkeeping provider. Work also continues on the SCADA and AMI metering upgrades, both expected to move forward next year.

Updates were shared on the proposed Loma Sabino tank site, where design details and insurance requirements are being reviewed, and on the Guthrie Road pipeline project, which is still in the easement and survey stage. The board also confirmed funds are being raised for additional fire hydrants, with help from the Women's Club and the Mt. Lemmon Women's Club's 501(c)(3) arm.

Steve Brigham, chair of an ad hoc committee studying commercial water use and curtailment, reported on the committee's initial findings. The committee, which included several business owners and residents, reviewed how commercial rates and policies could be refined. Steve emphasized the importance of data analysis to understand business water use patterns and of promoting water conservation across the mountain.

As a result of community input, the board agreed to revise the community curtailment policy to specifically address commercial water users, ensuring consistent conservation standards across the mountain.

Also based in community input, the Board will consider formalizing a preventive maintenance plan for infrastructure and equipment.

Public Safety Report

MLFD calls for the month: 6

EMS: 2

Campfire/BBQ: 1

Law enforcement: 1

Public assist: 1

False alarm: 1



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Mt. Lemmon will be one of the first communities to take part in the county's new wildfire prevention pilot program, with chipping scheduled for November (date to be announced). Residents are encouraged to stack slash in the usual piles and stop adding once the chipping is over—ideally before the snow arrives.

Our community continues to shine as a Firewise success story. This year's volunteer labor and mitigation expenses total nearly \$170,000, far exceeding the annual requirement of \$8,400. Qualifying work includes thinning vegetation, replacing wood siding or decking with fire-resistant materials, and maintaining sealed or painted exteriors.

The Firewise team is also updating the homeowner database to help captains stay in touch with new cabin owners. Residents are asked to let their captain know about property sales so information can stay current. Fall is the perfect time to trim pines, since bark beetles are inactive, and to prepare for winter conditions.

The next Firewise Steering Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on January 15 at 4:30 p.m. to plan spring activities and another chipper event. Thanks to everyone for helping keep our mountain community safe and resilient!

Listen to the Lemmon!
KLMN-LP 106.9 FM



\White Elephant Party Pot Luck!

Save the Date:
Hosted by Diana, John Osborne & Theresa Kuhel
Location: Osborne home in Tucson
Date: Friday December 12
Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Look for details on Nextdoor coming soon!

The Shops of Summerhaven

*Invite you to do your holiday shopping,
dining, & drinking right here in the village.
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Please Donate to the Fire Hydrant Fundraiser!

The Mount Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District is currently in the permitting, planning, and engineering phase to add additional fire hydrants in Summerhaven.

MLDWID is using a combination of reserve funds, a low-interest government loan, and grant money. Even so, resources are limited, and the District continues to work hard to keep water prices reasonable. The estimated cost for three to four hydrants is \$15,000–\$20,000.

Community support has always made a difference on the mountain, and once again, there is a need for help. The Mt Lemmon Woman's Club voted in October to generously donate \$5,000 to this important effort.

The Mt. Lemmon's Woman's Club is collecting donations for the hydrants. *All donations are tax deductible.* You can donate using a check or Zelle. Make sure you put FIRE HYDRANT FUND in the memo section so your donation is properly designated.

Thank you for your donation! Our community appreciates it!

Checks:

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club
PO Box 673
Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619

Zelle:

mountlemmonwomansclub@gmail.com

Matthew Grossman was good enough to provide us with this interesting comparison of rain totals for the last several years.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Tucson (far East side)	3.89"	3.33"	2.43"	10.34"	17.77"	1.73"
Summerhaven	11.04"	11.64"	10.8"	32.37"	32.58"	6.03"

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**KLMN-LP 106.9 FM: Local Music Artist and Children's
Author Spotlight for Summer 2026**

Submitted by Christina Grossman

While our initial efforts have focused on developing music line-ups and Internet content for all of our listeners at KLMN-LP 106.9 FM, we are now working diligently to create local radio programs for all to enjoy. We are happy to share that we are working toward featuring local musicians and authors for Summer 2026.

Great talent exists beyond the mainstream airways, which is exactly why we are so passionate to shine a broadcasting light on them. Featuring local artists is a way to share the heart, soul and craft that goes into their music. Music is an essential part of life and culture – one of the things that defines humanity. It is art through sound waves.

Featuring children's authors and their stories is another important goal of ours, with a goal of improving literacy for kids. I grew up with listening to cassettes playing out stories, while I read along in the book. There was a time when we listened to bedtime stories that allowed our imaginations and dreams to flourish. Our spotlight will offer a time for families to gather near the radio and listen to night time stories in their cabins and around the campfire. We hope they will have the book with them to read along as well. This is a moment to offer a space to feel connected with a world that is outside of us but is still reachable through storytelling.

Radio is important to share across generations, especially on our mountain. It is very important for our community to connect in this way. As you are part of our community, feel free to send me an email at programming@klmn-lp.org with recommendations of local musicians and children's authors. If your suggested musician or artist isn't ready for this coming summer, we'll add them to our list for Summer 2027, since we live on mountain time.

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STORM'S RAINY PHASE IS ENDED

Heavy Snowfall Reported On Mt. Lemmon; Tucson Temperature to Drop

Estimates on snowfall at Mt. Lemmon during the past 48 hours range from eight to 16 inches. A number of skiing enthusiasts plied their favorite sport at the Saguaro Ski club runs about a mile and a quarter above Palisades ranger station yesterday, according to Glenn Poole, president of the club. Skiing conditions were reported as "fair."

Highway Open

The highway leading to Mt. Lemmon was reported open last night by Claude Hillman, superintendent of public roads. The road is icy in spots and chains, though not necessary, are recommended for safety by C. B. Mead, superintendent of the federal prison camp in the Catalinas.

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Cody and the First Snowfall

Cody the Curious Coati woke up one chilly morning and noticed the forest had gone strangely quiet. The air smelled sharp and clean, and when he poked his nose outside, tiny white flakes landed on it. Snow! His very first snow!



He scampered through the pines, leaving a trail of tiny pawprints. The branches that had once shaded him in summer now sparkled with frost, and the ground made a soft crunch beneath his feet. He stopped by the picnic rock where he'd watched the 4th of July parade, then by the tall pine where he'd once hidden from a noisy raven. Everything looked familiar, yet brand new under its white blanket.

Down in the village, Cody saw smoke curling from chimneys and heard laughter echoing between the cabins. Humans in bright jackets were stacking wood and decorating their porches with twinkling lights. Cody tilted his head. Even the people seemed to be getting ready to hibernate in their own way.

By the time the sun slipped behind the ridge, the forest was hushed again. Cody padded back to his den, cozy and content. He thought about all he'd discovered this year — the smell of syrup from the pancake breakfast, the cheer of the parade, and the warm feeling of belonging on this mountain full of surprises.

As he curled into his nest of pine needles, a shimmer caught his eye just outside the entrance — something small and silver half-buried in the snow. He blinked sleepily. He'd look for it in the spring.

Outside, the snow kept falling, soft and steady, wrapping the mountain and one very curious coati in peaceful dreams. until next year.

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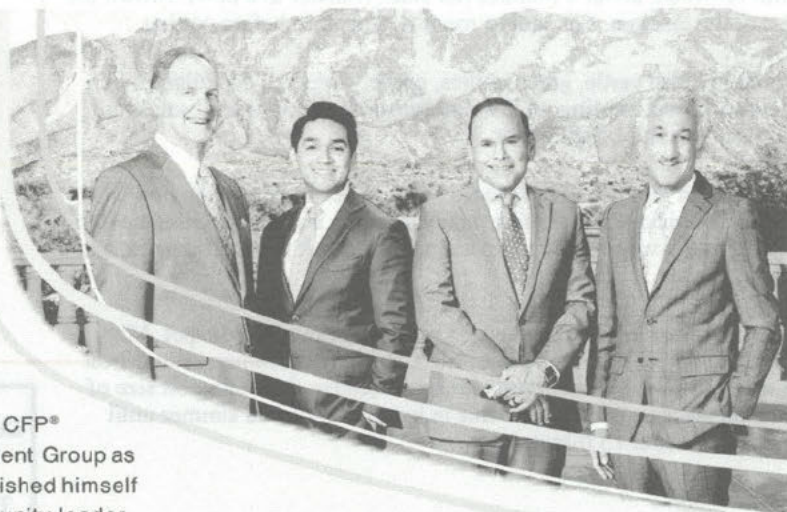
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24-TU-02340 (08/24)

Chef John's Green Chicken Chili

This was the winning recipe for the 2025 Chili Challenge! Shamelessly pilfered from *All Recipes*

By John Mitzewich

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cook Time: 1 hr 35 mins

Total Time: 1 hr 50 mins

Servings: 6

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients

3 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs

kosher salt to taste

1 (24 fluid ounce) bottle tomatillo-based salsa verde

½ (4 ounce) can chopped roasted green chiles

3 cloves garlic

1 large jalapeno pepper, seeded and sliced

½ cup lightly packed cilantro leaves and stems

1 tablespoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon ground dried chipotle pepper

½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

¾ teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon kosher salt, or more to taste

2 (15 ounce) cans white kidney beans, drained and rinsed

Directions

Season chicken thighs with salt on both sides.

Transfer 1/2 the chicken to a dry, nonstick skillet over high heat. Cook until browned, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer to a bowl. Brown the rest of the chicken. Let cool to room temperature before cutting.

Combine salsa verde, green chilies, garlic, jalapeno, and cilantro in a blender. Blend, starting on low and finishing on high, until sauce is very smooth and bright green.

Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces and transfer back into the bowl. Combine chicken pieces, accumulated juices, and the green sauce into a pot. Season with cumin, chipotle pepper, black pepper, oregano, and salt.

Rinse out blender with a splash of water and pour into the pot. Mix together and set heat to medium-high. Bring to a simmer; reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer until chicken is tender, depending on size of chicken pieces, about 1 hour. Stir in kidney beans and simmer until thickened, about 15 minutes.

Chef's Notes

When selecting green salsas at the supermarket, make sure tomatillos are the first ingredient, followed by onion and chiles.

Community Feedback!

What an uplifting Saturday evening of different and wonderful music at the Mt Lemmon Lodge!

The band "Tesoro" played in front of an intimate crowd of Mt Lemmon Residents and Guests.

The sound was upbeat and so very charming. Flamenco is certainly a unique sound and this night of professional musicians was extremely enjoyable.

A surprise guest of a talented Flamenco dancer, Natalie, seriously added to the excitement and joy of the night.

Tesoro is an up and coming group that is and will be enjoyed by many more patrons as time goes on!

With just four members, their huge picking and strumming sound of the up front guitars backed up by exquisite bass and percussion rhythms, was a solid and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Thank you Diana Osborne and providers for a terrific evening of entertainment.

Submitted by:

Michael G Colosimo, Resident

Frost on every roof,

Old trails whisper, "Come again"—

Spring will find us here.

Deadline for submission to the FEBRUARY issue of *The Echoes* is JANUARY 20

The *Mt. Lemmon Echoes* is a publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association. *The Echoes* is published monthly February through November.

Reader submitted stories, letters, photos, ideas, and comments are always welcome.

You may submit submissions or comments to:

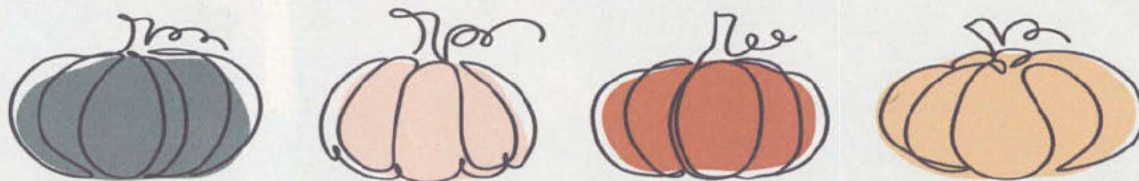
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Chili Challenge 2025

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