


**Currents**

Enjoy holiday events in and around town; **17**

QUEEN CREEK
# INDEPENDENT

**Rescue**

QC fire helps rescue lost bear cub; **34**



November/December 2025 Volume 22 Issue 11 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

## Towns look for ways to curb groundwater dependence

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The newly enacted agriculture-to-urban water program aimed at allowing more home construction in outlying Valley cities and towns such as Buckeye and Queen Creek is easing but not solving the issue of groundwater supply.

In 2023, the state announced it would no longer issue permits for new construction in the Valley's outlying areas as a groundwater analysis showed there is not enough to meet the state-mandated assurance of a 100-year supply. The assurances are needed before construction can commence.

In July, Gov. Katie Hobbs signed the so-called "Ag-to-Urban" bill that allows farm owners to convert their groundwater rights into credits for residential use.

As residential uses less water than agriculture, those looking at the bill say it can offer a lifeline for growth and save water.

• See **Groundwater** on page **8**

## Town works out kinks at Queen Creek recreation, aquatic center



By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center has gotten off to a strong start in its first six months, but it hasn't been without its challenges.

So far, the center has generated $1.1 million in revenue, with 8,869 three-month and annual members.

However, as with any new building, there have been some structural problems, primarily a leaky roof, faulty gym floor and issues with the

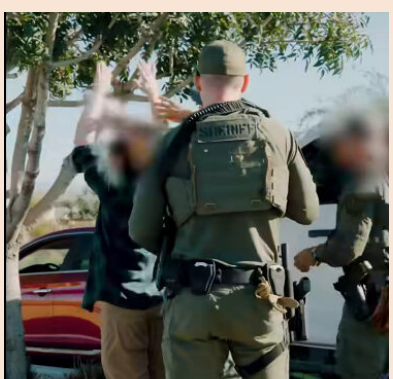
• See **Rec Center** on page **16**

**Swim instructor Haydn Kent conducts a lesson with youngsters at the Recreation & Aquatic Center. The town is trying to balance having more family-swim time with swim lessons. (Town Queen Creek)**

**Digital Subscription at YourValley.net - $1 for the first month!**
Access to all 18 e-Newspapers • Access to searchable archives • Daily newsletter in your email
Hyperlocal, independent reporting for all towns in the Phoenix-metro market
Unlimited access to Puzzles, Sudoku, and Word Sleuth
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Queen Creek, Arizona
Permit No. 1895
ECRWSSEDDM
Postal Customer

## on Yourvalley.net



A San Tan Valley man is in the Pinal County Jail on 10 counts of allegedly possessing child sexual abuse material. (PCSO)

### San Tan Valley man arrested for child porn

A San Tan Valley man has been jailed on 10 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor after he was arrested for allegedly possessing almost 2,000 images of child sexual abuse.

tinyurl.com/v8d3db22

### Town seeks residents' input

Queen Creek residents will be randomly selected to participate in a citizen survey that will help the town set priorities for the future.

tinyurl.com/4cdxe4ts

### QCPD assisted county with large teen party

The Queen Creek Police Department assisted the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the Pinal County Sheriff's Office in handling a large teen gathering on Nov. 1 just outside QCPD's jurisdiction in a Maricopa County island near Signal Butte and Queen Creek roads.

tinyurl.com/ms5bm84y

COMMUNITY

# Strong start for Queen Creek recreation, aquatic center

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In the first six months since opening, the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center is racking up thousands of members and visitors while generating healthy revenue.

"It still surprises me that it was four-and-a-half years ago that it was initially approved to be built and it's been a fast four-and-a-half years and at the same time felt like forever," Adam Robinson, director of the parks and recreation department, told council members during its most recent meeting.

The Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center is within Frontier Family Park at 22343 E. Ryan Road. Construction on the $67.9 million center began in May 2023 as part of an overall project that included the creation of the 85-acre Frontier Family Park and the 13-acre expansion of Carter Mansel Oasis Park.

Robinson presented council with a new report showing that between April and September, residents purchased 32,307 day passes to the facility, which features a large gym, event and activity rooms, indoor track, a pool, lazy river and water slides.

The recreation center portion of the facility opened in March, while the aquatic center started accepting visitors in May.

In its first six months, the center generated $1.1 million in revenue, this despite the controversial decision to only allow residents into the facility. That decision drew the ire of San Tan Valley residents who live very close to the center but can only go in with a resident.



As expected, the aquatic portion of the center is very popular, drawing thousands of three-month memberships over the summer. (Town of Queen Creek)



Exercise classes for seniors proved a draw for the recreation and aquatic center. (Town of Queen Creek)

"Back about six months, seven months before we opened, we made the decision to go resident-only and we weren't sure what kind of impact that was going to have on revenues overall," Robinson said. "I think that ultimately ... it's been strong, we're feeling pretty good about it, and we feel as the population grows, as word gets out, I think that will also continue to grow."

Annual memberships at 759 make up 33%, or $338,000, of the center's revenue to date. Three-month mem-

• See **Rec Center** on page **32**

# Imagine your home, totally organized!

Custom Closets, Garage Cabinets, Home Offices, Laundries, Pantries, Wall Beds, Hobby Rooms and more!



2024 © All Rights Reserved. Closets by Design, Inc.

**40% Off Plus Free Installation**

**PLUS TAKE AN EXTRA 15% Off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of $1000 or more or 30% off any order of $700-$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of $850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Offer not valid in all regions. Expires 12/31/25.

**SPECIAL FINANCING FOR 18 MONTHS!**

With approved credit. Call or ask your Designer for details. Not available in all areas.





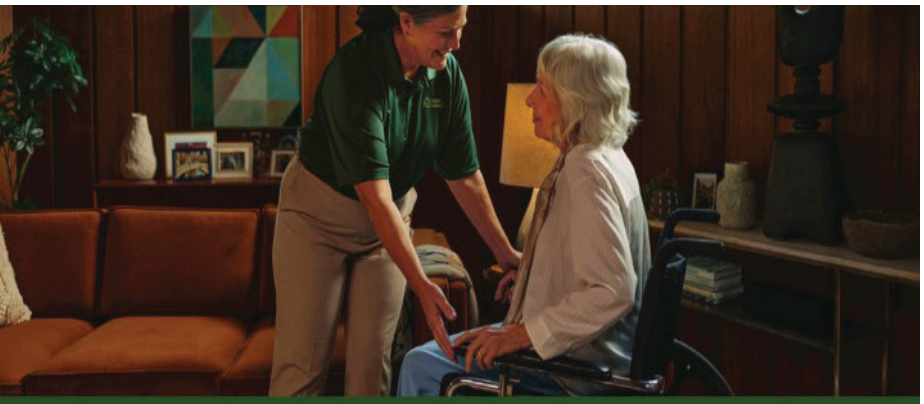

Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

**480-764-2884** IN

closetsbydesign.com

Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

ClosetsbyDesign®



Reliable help when you need it.

Our personalized in-home care services empower your family to live life with peace of mind.

home instead.

(480) 827-4343 | homeinstead.com/195

Power Tag, Titles & More

*Family Owned Approved Service Provider for the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division*

www.powertagstitlesandmore.net

M-F 9am to 3pm only
DRIVER'S LICENSES!
*Hunt Highway Location Only

Family Member Always On Duty

Our Florence Office Will Renew Your Registration Over The Phone.
JUST CALL!

✓ Title and Registration ✓ Permits ✓ Driver's License Record
✓ Registration Renewal ✓ Plates ✓ Vehicle Inspection

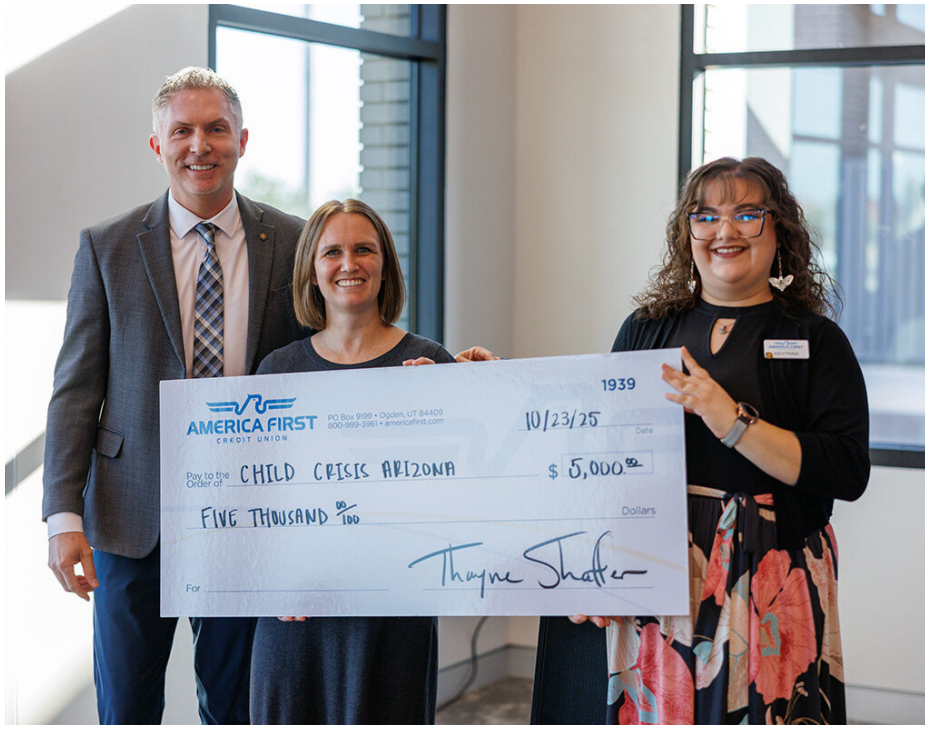
OTHER SERVICES INCLUDING:
• Carfax • Sold Notice • Faxing • Finger Printing • Notary
• Insurance Verification • Address Change • Credit Plate Refund
• PARALLEL PARKING • ROAD TESTS • CAR INSURANCE

NEW EXPANDED LOCATION!!!
3125 W Hunt Highway Ste. 104
Queen Creek, AZ 85142 (just west of Gary Rd.)
480-677-3132
OPEN: M-F 8am – 6pm Call If You Are Running Late

2ND LOCATION NOW OPEN!!!
495 N Pinal Parkway #105
Florence, AZ 85132
520-788-6014
OPEN: M-F 9am – 4pm Call If You Are Running Late

BUSINESS

# America First Credit Union opens at Hudson Station




**At the grand opening of its first Queen Creek location, America First Credit Union presented Child Crisis Arizona with a $5,000 donation. From left to right, Troy Stevenson, executive vice president and chief digital, product and retail officer of America First Credit Union; Allison Hurtado, Child Crisis Arizona grants manager; and Kehtrina Lopez, Queen Creek branch manager. (America First Credit Union)**

Queen Creek welcomed its newest credit union recently with the opening of America First Credit Union.

The almost 3,000-square-foot credit union is located at 22335 E. Queen Creek Road near the southwest corner of Signal Butte and Queen Creek roads within the Marketplace at Hudson Station.

The grand-opening ceremony was attended by Queen Creek Town Council Member Bryan McClure, Allison Hurtado of Child Crisis Arizona and representatives from the offices of U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., and U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz.

America First Credit Union presented Hurtado with a $5,000 donation to Child Crisis Arizona.

"Not only have they been there to support us financially, but they also donate new shoes as part of their annual shoe drive, Warm the Soles," Hurtado, who is grants manager for Child Crisis Arizona, stated in a press release. "For a child who's lost everything or a child who didn't have much to begin with, having the opportunity to pick out a brand-new pair of shoes to start the school year means the world to them."

Since entering Arizona in 2016, America First Credit Union has grown to serve more than 150,000 members statewide. The Queen Creek branch is

• See **America First** on page 5

## America First

• From page 4

part of a broader strategy to open eight new branches in Arizona by 2027, the press release stated.

The Queen Creek location is the credit union's third new Arizona site, with additional branches now open in Goodyear and Mesa.

"What makes Queen Creek so unique to us is not just the beautiful landscapes, wonderful parks, and infrastructure, it's the people. It's your history," stated Troy Stevenson, executive vice president and chief digital, product and retail officer of America First Credit Union, in the release. "We commit today that we will continue to invest in this community and give back to this place we can now call home."

In September 2024, the Queen Creek Town Council approved a conditional use permit and site plan for the credit union's first location in town.

America First Credit Union has 115 locations across Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. It has more than 1.4 million members, and assets of more than $22 billion, according to the release.




The America First Credit Union's Queen Creek branch is located at 22335 E. Queen Creek Road within the Marketplace at Hudson Station. (America First Credit Union)




San Tan Memorial Gardens at Schnepf Farms

Wreaths Across America

You're Invited!

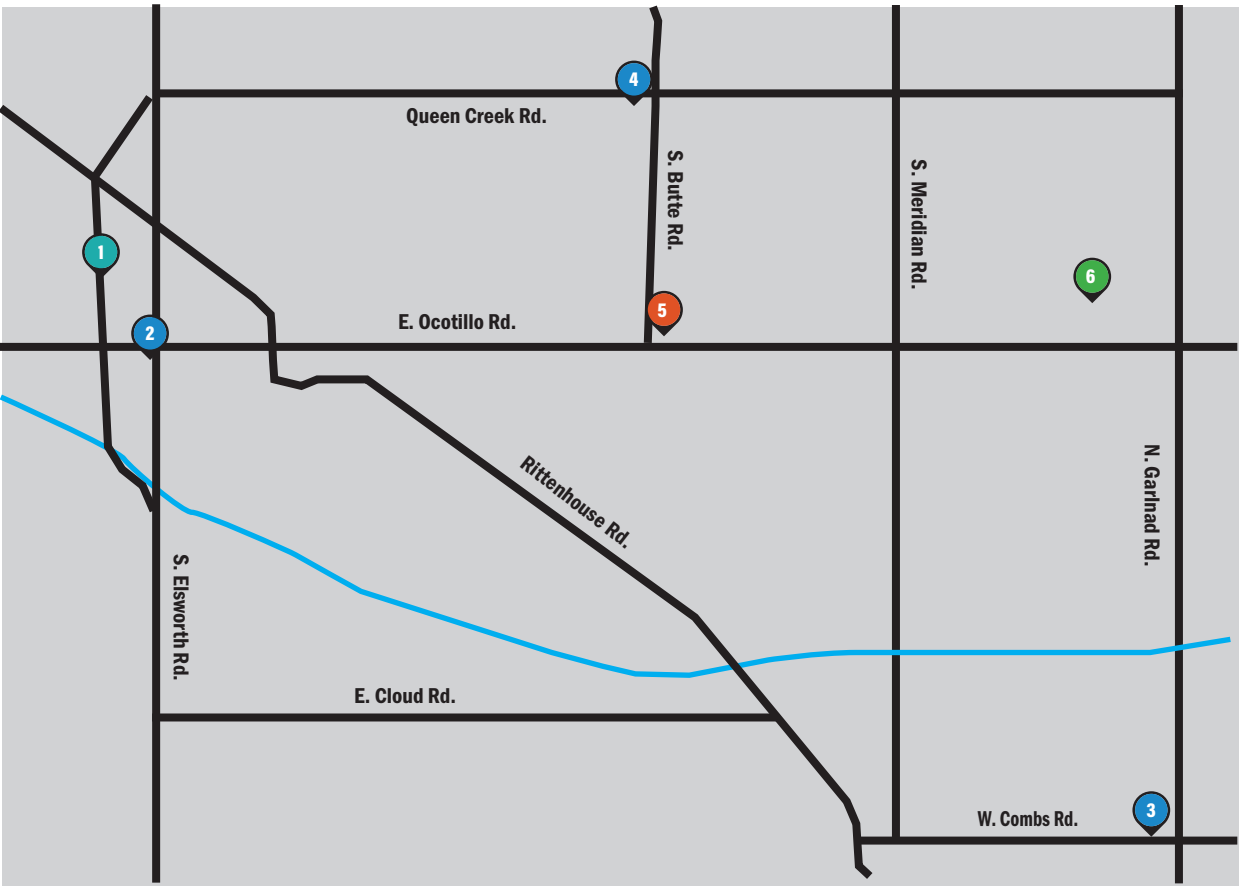
3rd Annual

Wreath's Across America Day Ceremony

Saturday, December 13, 2025
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
22425 E Cloud Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

To sponsor a wreath or volunteer visit
www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

# BUSINESS MOVES




INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

## RIBBON CUTTING

**1 Perspire Sauna Studio Queen Creek**
**21582 S. Ellsworth Loop Road, Suite 114**
Although Perspire Sauna Studio Queen Creek opened to the public in March, it held its official ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Nov. 5. It offers private infrared saunas combined with red light therapy to "boost mood, increase energy and support long-term wellness," according to the business' website. Part of a national chain, Perspire Sauna Studio has Valley locations in Peoria, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Chandler and Gilbert. Information: perspiresaunastudio.com/az/queen-creek.

## NOW OPEN

**2 The Sacred Pint**
**22020 S. Ellsworth Road**
The Sacred Pint opened its doors in Downtown Queen Creek on Oct. 17. The pub offers 36 unique beers on tap, 11 wines to choose from and seven cooler doors stocked with to-go beer, wine, sake and non-alcoholic drink options. The Sacred Pint is open 3 p.m.-11 p.m., Monday-Thursday; noon-1 a.m., Friday and Saturday; noon-11 p.m., Sunday. The Sacred Pint also has a location in Mesa. Information: thesacredpint.com.

**3 The Peach Cobbler Factory**
**Vineyard Towne Center**
**200 W. Combs Road, Suite 106**
Your sweet tooth may have found a new favorite spot. The Peach Cobbler Factory is now open at Vineyard Towne Center and serves up warm, old-school desserts. The eatery serves 12 flavors of premium cobblers, banana puddings, milkshakes, cinnamon rolls and fresh cookies. The dessert shop opened on Sept. 10. The franchise chain also has a location in Chandler. Information: peachcobblerfactory.com.

**4 America First Credit Union**
**Marketplace at Hudson Station**
**22335 E. Queen Creek Road**

AMBERLIN
QUEEN CREEK

### AMBERLIN QUEEN CREEK

Located near the southwest corner of Signal Butte and Queen Creek roads the almost 3,000-square-foot credit union opened Oct. 23. The Queen Creek location is the credit union's third new Arizona site, with additional branches now open in Goodyear and Mesa. The Queen Creek branch is part of a broader strategy to open eight new branches in Arizona by 2027, a press release stated. Information: americafirst.com.

## COMING SOON

**5 Farmer Boys**
**Northeast corner of Signal Butte and Ocotillo roads**
Farmer Boys serves breakfast and lunch offerings ranging from chocolate chip pancakes to Parmesan-crusted burgers. Diners will also be able to grab salads, sandwiches and wraps. The chains prides itself on sourcing its food from local farmers at its various locations. Farmer Boys has franchises in California, Nevada, as well as in Gilbert and Tolleson.

## ANNIVERSARY

**6 Amberlin Queen Creek**
**270 W. Ocotillo Road**
The Amberlin Queen Creek 55+ Active Adult Community marked its first year on Nov. 7. Amberlin offers studio, one- or two-bedroom apartments for rent. It also has amenities such as a pool, pickle ball and bocce ball courts, a 24-hour fitness studio, clubhouse, library and dog park. Information: amberlinqueencreek.com.

*If you have a new business that has just opened, is under construction or is celebrating an anniversary, please contact jperez@iniusa.org..*




ROC #336899 & 349964

We will bring major manufacturers samples to your home or we will provide "installation only" estimates if you purchase your own flooring materials!

## Groundwater

• From page 1

"This reserves far less groundwater than farming, creating long-term savings in the aquifer. Within the Phoenix (active management areas) alone, the legislation is expected to save more than 7 million acre-feet of water over the next century," according to a statement from the city of Buckeye. The Independent reached out to the city of Buckeye to interview Water Resources Director Terry Lowe. He was unavailable for comment and the city sent a statement instead.

But the program has limitations, particularly for medium- to high-density development.

After the state issued the moratorium in 2023, Queen Creek stated the requirement would impact a small number of undeveloped properties in the town that did not have an assured water supply.

One of those affected was Rittenhouse Commons 2, a 166-lot, single-family townhome community.

Originally, the townhomes were meant to be sold, but the project was sidelined by the moratorium. Eventually the owner of Rittenhouse Commons 2, Arcus Private Capital Solutions, could not file a final plat for a residential subdivision because it could not obtain a water certificate and had to file a site plan instead.

As a result, the owner made the townhomes available for sale and rent,



Like Queen Creek, Buckeye is a rapidly growing area in the West Valley that is looking to diversify its water portfolio. (City of Buckeye)



The Central Arizona Project carries Colorado River water throughout the Valley. (Central Arizona Project)

a change the Queen Creek Town Council approved in June, just days before the Ag-to-Urban bill was announced.

Not that it would have made a difference for Rittenhouse 2.

"My understanding is that Ag-to-Urban bill only helps projects at around three units to the acre or less, more like traditional single-family subdivisions," said Sean Lake of the law firm Pew & Lake, which is representing the developers of the townhome community. "This is a townhome project, which is more dense, so it wouldn't have helped it. The only option this site had was what the council had decided to move forward to allow for rent. Otherwise, they they'd still be in a moratorium."

As Queen Creek's Water Resource Director Paul Gardner explained, the agriculture-to-urban deal allows for 1.5 acre-foot per acre of water to be used.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources states that "1 acre-foot is typically enough water to serve (three) single-family homes for a year."

That leaves Buckeye and Queen Creek looking for more ways to diversify their water portfolios beyond groundwater.

In July, the Arizona Department of Water Resources approved applications from Buckeye and Queen Creek to transport groundwater from the Harquahala Valley.

The approval allows Buckeye to withdraw up to 5,926 acre-feet per year for up to 110 years, and Queen Creek to withdraw up to 5,000 acre-feet per year for up to 110 years of groundwater from the region west of the Valley.

"The city has made major investments to secure future water supplies, including an $80 million purchase of water rights in the Harquahala Valley, adding nearly 600,000 acre-feet to Buckeye's long-term portfolio. With ADWR's approval of the first-ever transportation order to move that

• See **Groundwater** on page **40**

QUEEN CREEK INDEPENDENT
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

**Arizona Leadership**

Circulation Manager: Terri Rodgers.....trodgers@iniusa.org
Digital Sales Manager: Austin Moose.....amoose@iniusa.org
Editor-in-Chief: Patrick O'Grady.....pogrady@iniusa.org
Business Operations Manager: Kathleen Kotzbauer.....kkotzbauer@iniusa.org
V.P. of Sales & Marketing: Barbara Wandling.....bwandling@iniusa.org
President & CEO: Charlene Bisson.....cbisson@iniusa.org

**To Reach Us**

Newsroom: aznews@iniusa.org
Advertising: azads@iniusa.org
Obituaries: azobits@iniusa.org
Advertising: 623-972-6101
Customer Service: 888-665-3848

**Queen Creek e-subscriptions**

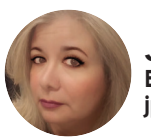
https://yourvalley.net/subscribe-today/

**Memberships**

ARIZONA MEDIA ASSOCIATION · APACHE JUNCTION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

© 2025 Independent Newsmedia, Inc., USA. The publication of any advertisement in this newspaper does not constitute an endorsement by the publisher of products or services advertised. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act. We will not knowingly accept any advertising that is illegal or considered fraudulent.

**Your Local Team**



**Janet Perez**
Editor
jperez@iniusa.org



**Richard Dyer**
Managing Editor
rdyer@iniusa.org



**Chris Williams**
Graphic Designer
cwilliams@iniusa.org



**Sarah Nieto**
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
snieto@iniusa.org

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Edward Jones

# FINANCIAL FOCUS® - Is this a good year for tax-loss harvesting?

Thanks to market swings, evolving tax laws and new technology, it may be a good year to consider tax-loss harvesting – a strategy that can help reduce taxes and improve long-term returns.

**What is tax-loss harvesting?** When you sell an investment for less than you paid, you may be able to use that loss to offset gains from other investments, potentially reducing your overall tax bill.

If your total capital losses exceed your gains, you can use up to $3,000 of those losses to reduce ordinary income each year. You can carry any remaining losses forward to future tax years. The strategy doesn't eliminate taxes altogether; it simply defers them, which can free up money to reinvest elsewhere.

**How it works.** Imagine an investor who sold one stock for a $10,000 gain and another for a $10,000 loss. The two transactions cancel each other out, meaning no capital gains tax is owed for that year. The investor can then reinvest the proceeds while following the IRS's "wash-sale rule." This rule prevents you from claiming a loss if you, or your spouse or a related party, repurchase the same or a "substantially identical" investment within 30 days before or after the sale.

Because of this rule, you should consider how tax-loss harvesting will affect your investment strategy, as the benefit of holding on to that investment (and letting it grow over time) may outweigh the benefit of lowering your capital gains tax bill for a given year.

Good candidates for tax-loss harvesting include investments that no longer fit your strategy (when rebalancing your portfolio, for example), have poor investment potential or can be easily substituted with other investments.

**Why 2025 may be favorable.** Several factors suggest 2025 may be a good time to consider tax-loss harvesting.

First, **market volatility** has created more opportunities to realize losses. The first half of the year saw sharp market swings that left some portfolios uneven. Many large asset managers have already harvested billions in losses, using them to help lower clients' tax liability while keeping investment strategies on track.

Second, **tax law changes** are on the horizon. With major tax reform provisions scheduled to expire in the coming years, many investors are motivated to manage their gains and losses proactively. Those in higher tax brackets stand to benefit most, as the savings increase with your tax rate.

Finally, **technology** has made the process more efficient. In the past, investors typically harvested losses near year-end. Today, automation and direct indexing allow for continuous monitoring and harvesting throughout the year, capturing losses as they appear.

**Putting it into practice.** Tax-loss harvesting isn't right for everyone, and it's not a reason to overhaul your investment strategy. The approach works best for investors with taxable accounts, current or expected capital gains and a long-term perspective.

Consult your financial advisor and a tax professional before making decisions. When used thoughtfully, tax-loss harvesting can help you navigate a volatile market, reduce taxes and keep more of your money working toward your future goals.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*



Your gift.
**Their health.**



This holiday season, your donation to Circle the City can do more than provide compassionate healthcare to all individuals facing homelessness in Maricopa County– it can also give you something back.

With Arizona's Charitable Tax Credit, you can donate up to $495 as an individual or $987 as a couple filing jointly, and it comes right off your state taxes. It's a win-win: your generosity helps deliver critical care to those who need it most, and you benefit from a tax credit.

Visit **circlethecity.org** to make an impact today.



Circle the City

HEALING HOMELESSNESS. **TOGETHER.**

Tax ID: 26-2420730 | QCO Code: 20693

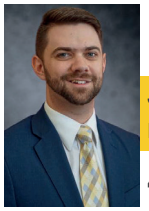
Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



## The power of personal attention working for you

When you work with Edward Jones, our entire team will help you work toward your financial goals. We'll learn which special moments you want to create in your life -- and then we'll design a tailored strategy to help you build the future you envision. Together.



**James Hundley, AAMS™**
Financial Advisor
**480-931-3565**



**Bert Mills, CFP®, AAMS™**
Financial Advisor
**480-931-3566**

2919 S Ellsworth Rd Ste 129, Mesa, AZ 85212

# OPINION

## Take the Civility 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

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name 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.

Those that are 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. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

## Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't 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 will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

OPINION

## Jail for irresponsible dog owners?

When a dog bites someone, chaos often follows. Some owners panic and bolt, leaving the victim unable to identify the dog or confirm its vaccinations. Under Arizona's new law, that kind of "bite-and-run" is now a crime.

As of late September, anyone responsible for a dog that bites a person must provide the owner's name and contact information to the victim. That duty applies in public places and when the person bitten is lawfully on private property, including the owner's own yard. Failure to comply Before, owners had to report bites to animal control, but didn't have to identify themselves to the victim. The new law closes that gap, promoting accountability and ensuring victims can quickly confirm vaccination and insurance details.

Some may feel lawmakers went too far in attaching potential jail time



Marc Lamber (Submitted photo/Lamber Goodnow)

to what might simply be panic or confusion.

In theory, an owner who leaves the scene of a dog bite could face jail. In practice, that's likely to be rare unless the act is willful, repeated or involves a dog with a known history of biting. Most cases will end in a citation or fine.

Many owners leave not to avoid responsibility, but out of fear their dog will be seized or euthanized. That fear is understandable but often misplaced.

Dogs are typically quarantined for 10 days for observation, not automatically destroyed. Euthanasia occurs only when a dog tests positive for rabies, poses a continuing danger or the owner refuses to comply with quarantine rules.

Still, that human reaction underscores why lawmakers should consider allowing owners — or those responsible for the dog, who report or provide contact information within 24 hours to avoid criminal penalties.

**Please send your comments to AzOpinions@iniusa.org.**

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

**Marc Lamber**
Attorney

*Editor's note: Marc Lamber is a trial attorney and personal injury group chair who has practiced law in Arizona for more than three decades. He lives in Paradise Valley. 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.*

SPEAK UP

## Queen Creek gives town of San Tan Valley financial assistance

"Really? For how many months do you plan on lending or giving them $250,000? Is this something that is normally done? Never heard of such a thing." - Sylvia Barrett via Next Door

"Ridiculous." - Skip Jones via Next Door

"Control over the town." - Allen Eckert via Next Door

"Welcome to government control!" - William Knox via Next Door

"More gov, more control, higher costs, guess who pays increased cost?" - Diana Keyser via Next Door

"WTH! Why does STV need financial help?" - Desiree McCollum via Next Door

"Because the state will not release state shared Revenue (SSR) for STV until they get the census data from the federal government. Since SSR are funds collected and distributed by the state of AZ, one would think the state could appropriate distribution of funds based on an 'estimate' minus 20% as a buffer. Then 'true up' when the actual census is provided." - Jean Stockton via Next Door

"Why do we need assistance? That should not be an issue for San Tan Valley." - Louanne Garcia via Next Door

## Possible new funeral home

"Northwest corner of Ocotillo/Hawes. Get rid of the house trailer next to it also! That corner looks like trash. Right across from Sossaman's old house." - Mark Costello via Next Door

"Not mad at it, I would love to work with or for a funeral home." - Nicoletta D. via Next Door

"Why? Schnepf has a funeral home on Cloud near Sossaman. But it will generate more property taxes. All about the money." – D. and C. Davison via Next Door

"A family owned business? Hey, why not?" - Karla B. via Next Door

"Just remember most funeral homes are now owned by corporations. They keep the family name to have you think it's still a nice friendly funeral home, when indeed they have replaced most of the employees with new ones." - Garry Roden via Next Door

"Good use of lot and get rid of the mess that is there now. Wouldn't create a lot of traffic like other uses may." - Joyce Shafer via Next Door

"IMO ... it would be OK. And the way people drive around here/red light runners, etc. and horrible accidents/deaths, we will need another funeral home." - Penni Royston via Next Door

"(A)re they (QC) never satisfied? They take, they take, they take." - Rio Mud via Next Door

# Medicare Advantage Plans, Designed for Your Health.

Discover added benefits and services available.



**Our goal at HealthSpring℠? To be a true health partner that supports your needs. Our plans offer all the coverage of Original Medicare plus added benefits. Plans in your area may include:***

- $0 monthly premium
- Up to $185 back in your Social Security check each month**
- Fitness program, dental, hearing, vision and transportation services
- $0 primary care provider and low cost specialist visits
- Up to $200 in rewards for completing healthy activities
- Vision services plus an eyewear allowance of up to $350 each year

Great health is built together.
**Together, we are so much more.℠**



**Talk to a local Licensed Insurance Agent to learn more.**

Shannon Farquharson
**480-215-0565**
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
Shannon_Farquharson@HCSC.com

**You may be eligible to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan right away if you meet certain criteria, such as moving, retiring, losing coverage and more. Learn more today.**

HealthSpring℠

*Benefits, features and/or devices vary by plan/service area. Limitations, copayments, exclusions, and restrictions may apply. Contact the plan for more information.
**HealthSpring will reduce your monthly Part B premium based on the plan's specific benefit amount.
HealthSpring products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company. Health Care Service Corporation and its affiliates contract with Medicare to offer Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO plans and Part D Prescription Drug Plans (PDP) in select states, and with select State Medicaid programs. Enrollment in a HealthSpring plan depends on contract renewal. © 2025 Health Care Service Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
Y0036_26_1687224291_M 5001520.1025




Protect Your Family's Future In Under an Hour

Walk-in Wills
Professional • Affordable • Convenient



Our locally-owned firm helps you:

- Create/update your Will
- Set up a Trust
- Plan for Medicaid
- Secure Powers of Attorney
- And more...

Don't wait.
Get peace of mind TODAY.

Call for your free consultation.
480-470-7000
1095 W. Queen Creek Rd. Suite 4 | Chandler, AZ 85248
walkinwills.com/chandler

Disclaimer: Time may vary based on client needs.
Services help in safeguarding wishes but do not guarantee outcomes.

FROM THE CEO

# Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner as you navigate 'sus' comments




Happy Thanksgiving to our valued readers who make it worthwhile to publish community digital and print publications.

We appreciate your enduring support during this holiday season.

If you're like me and you have teenagers, you may often wonder how the modern language keeps shifting into shortened words, or lingo that doesn't quite make sense.

I'm still trying to understand the phenomenon of 6-7, and why my teenagers and/or their friends try to bait me to say it. And, not so surprisingly, it made word of the year, and an NFL football commercial. Huh?

Moving on, I recently learned fire now means it's cool, and crashed out doesn't mean passing out on the couch. Apparently, it means he's mad or frustrated about something.

I asked AI what the rest of the popular slang words are in 2025 that teenagers and young adults use. Here's the AI quick hits:

Bussin': Describes something as really good or amazing.

No cap: Means "no lie" or "for real."

Ate that: Used to praise someone for doing a great job, especially in a performance or presentation.

Sus: Short for suspicious.

Rizz: Short for charisma, a term used to describe someone's charm or skill in romantic situations.

Bet: Used to show agreement or confirmation.

Iykyk: An acronym for "if you know, you know."

It's giving: Used to describe the vibe or energy something is exuding (e.g., "It's giving 80s").

Drip: Refers to someone's great style or fashionable outfit.

Bae: An abbreviation for "before anyone else" or baby, used to refer to a romantic partner or close friend.

Cap: Means "lie" or "false" (the opposite of "no cap").

Glow-up: A significant improvement in someone's appearance or confidence.

Mid: Describes something that is mediocre or unimpressive.

Big yikes: An expression of embarrassment or secondhand cringe.

Touch grass: An insult telling someone to go outside and be more in touch with reality.

Delulu: Short for delusional, used to describe someone with unrealistic expectations.

I've heard about half of the above, but not as much as late as 6-7, which is the 2025 Word of the Year from Dictionary.com.

Best wishes during the Thanksgiving holiday.

P.S. If you'd like to share your thoughts on slang language that's not inappropriate, please email me at cbisson@iniusa.org.

EDUCATION

# Foundation awards grants to QCUSD teachers

The Queen Creek Schools Education Foundation recently delivered teacher grants to educators across the district, providing them with the resources to bring innovative ideas to life in their classrooms.

Each year, teachers apply for these grants by sharing how they plan to use the funds to enhance student learning, whether through new classroom technology, hands-on materials, or unique instructional projects.

"These grants empower teachers to create engaging, impactful experiences that support the district's mission of inspiring every student to achieve their full potential," according to a press release from the Queen Creek Unified School District.

By investing in teachers, the foundation "helps ensure that classrooms remain dynamic spaces where curiosity, creativity, and achievement thrive."




**Queen Creek Junior High teacher Hilary Reid, holding the check, celebrates her $1,000 grant with her students. The funds will be used for strength clubs. (QCUSD)**

The following is the list of teacher who were awarded grants, their schools and what programs the grants will fund.

**Crismon High School**

Barrett Sanders – Film and TV CTE intercom

Nicole Rowley – Science in Action

Ben Brandau – Weight room equipment

**Schnepf Elementary**

Jaren Foy and Holly Reider – Whiteboard Math Manipulatives

**Queen Creek Elementary**

Gina Robinson – Enhancing Speech through Visual Supports

**Queen Creek Junior High School**

Hilary Reid – Strength clubs

**Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary**

Melissa Axman – Reading

**Silver Valley Elementary**

Pia Murphy – Reading fluency

Bob Lindstrom – Fitnessgram Fitness

A. McDonald – Fitnessgram Fitness

Emily Stanton – STEM music

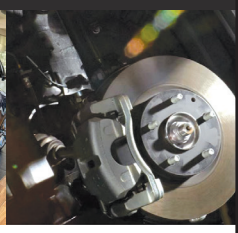
CardinaleWay #1 MAZDA DEALER IN ARIZONA!

mazda

Service





Full Synthetic Oil Change & Tire Rotation

$99.95

Includes engine oil & oil filter change with OEM approved oil and a tire rotation. Price may be higher for some models.

*Must present when service order is written. One coupon per customer. May not be combined with other offers. Not applicable to prior purchases. Not responsible for typographical, digital download, or printing errors. Other restrictions may apply. Most listed prices are starting prices and pricing may vary based on make, model, specific amounts, sizes, quantity, quality, and other variables. Please see your service advisor for complete details, exact pricing, and availability.

Expires 12/31/2025

6343 E Test Dr Mesa, AZ 85206 | cardinalewaymazdamesa.com

Sales: 480-355-4411 | Service: 480-355-4412

Sales: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM | Service: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

CARDINALEWAY MAZDA MESA







20911 E. Rittenhouse Rd • Queen Creek
480-912-4011

40615 N Gantzel Rd #103 • STV 85140
480-664-1614

**GILBERT LOCATION**
894 E. Warner Rd. - Suite 101
Gilbert, AZ 85296
(480) 207-7295

**CHANDLER LOCATION**
2990 E. Germann Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85286
(480) 758-4040

**CHANDLER II LOCATION**
4991 S. Alma School Rd.
Chandler, AZ 85248
(480) 572-1247

COUNTY/STATE

# Apache Junction police enforcing trespassing laws on state land




**The enforcement effort is in response to ongoing concerns about unauthorized activities on state trust land, including the use of motorized vehicles and illegal camping. (Independent Newsmedia/ Arianna Grainey)**

The Apache Junction Police Department, in partnership with the Arizona State Land Department, is taking proactive steps to protect and preserve state trust land west of Ironwood Drive between Guadalupe Road and Elliot Road.

Effective immediately, AJPD has begun enforcing trespassing laws in this area, according to a release.

This enforcement effort is in response to ongoing concerns about unauthorized activities on state trust land, including the use of motorized vehicles and illegal camping. These activities pose risks to public safety, disrupt wildlife habitats, and violate state regulations governing the responsible use of these lands.

"We are committed to working with our state partners to protect public land and ensure it is used responsibly. Our goal is to educate the community first, but we will take enforcement action when necessary to preserve these lands for future generations," Police Chief Michael Pooley said in the release.

For a first offense, individuals found trespassing without proper authorization — which includes a recreational permit issued by the Arizona State Land Department or a hunting license issued by the Arizona Game & Fish Department — will receive a written trespass warning.

For repeat offenses, additional violations may result in citations or criminal charges, the release states.

Prohibited activities include but are not limited to trespass and any other unauthorized activities including operating motorized vehicles.

Permitted access includes individuals with valid Arizona hunting licenses who may access the land on foot. All hunters must comply with Arizona Game and Fish Department regulations

The city of Apache Junction encourages residents and visitors to respect the regulations and to learn more about the appropriate use of Arizona State Trust Lands by visiting land.az.gov.

For questions or concerns regarding this enforcement effort, contact the Apache Junction Police Department at AJPDCommunications@apachejunctionaz.gov.

COUNTY/STATE

# Pinal County employee leads new state board managing sex offenders

A member of Pinal County Attorney Brad Miller's executive team has been tapped to head a new statewide board on sex offenders.

Beth Goulden, communications and intergovernmental affairs for the Pinal County Attorney's Office, was recently elected to be the first chair of the newly established Arizona Sex Offender Management Board.

The board will be developing statewide standards for the supervision, treatment and management of sex offenders in Arizona.

"There is an enormous amount of work to be done in bringing accountability and consistency to how sex offenders are held accountable," Miller stated in a press release.

"This board represents an opportunity to improve oversight, protect victims."

Goulden spent more than two decades working in adult probation specializing in the supervision of sex offenders.

She also played an instrumental part in advocating for the legislation that created the board, the release continued.

"This marks a new era of coordination and accountability," Miller stated. "Our office is proud that one of our own is leading this critical statewide effort to protect Arizona families.

"With Beth's two decades of experience, I know the Arizona Sex Offender Management Board and the people of Arizona are in capable and determined hands."



**Beth Goulden with the Pinal County Attorney's Office has been selected to chair the newly established Arizona Sex Offender Management Board. (PCAO)**





STV & QC LOCATIONS NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH!

San Tan Valley
40975 N Ironwood RD Unit
#B108 San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
LUNCH HOURS
Sat & Sun: 11am

Queen Creek
18423 E San Tan Blvd
Queen Creek, AZ 85142
LUNCH HOURS
Wed-Sun: 12pm

www.verochicagopizza.com

20% OFF
Any Dine-In Order.
*Must present coupon at time of payment for redemption
*ONLY VALID AT EITHER THE SAN TAN VALLEY OR QUEEN CREEK VERO CHICAGO PIZZA LOCATIONS - LIMIT ONE PER USER - MAXIMUM DISCOUNT VALUE $20
**EXCLUDES ALL ALCOHOL**
*VALID THROUGH 1/31/2026 *

20% OFF
Any In-Store or Online, Pick-up Order.
*Must present coupon at time of pickup for redemption, online use code below
'TGOSTVQC'
*ONLY VALID AT EITHER THE SAN TAN VALLEY OR QUEEN CREEK VERO CHICAGO PIZZA LOCATIONS - LIMIT ONE PER USER - MAXIMUM DISCOUNT VALUE $20
**EXCLUDES ALL ALCOHOL**
*VALID THROUGH 1/31/2026 *
NOT VALID FOR DINE-IN

## Rec Center

• From page 1

HVAC system.

"It's truly a remarkable system and it's made to manage a facility like this that has so many different uses all going on at once," Adam Robinson, director of the parks and recreation department, told council members during a recent meeting. "You need to have pretty specific controls, and we struggled with this system for the first four-and-a-half months."

Robinson said the HVAC is now "fully commissioned and it's been working phenomenally the last few weeks."

Following heavy rains over the late summer and fall, the roof was found to be leaking in some points throughout the facility. The town is now working with the contractor and a "forensic roofing specialist" to repair the roof.

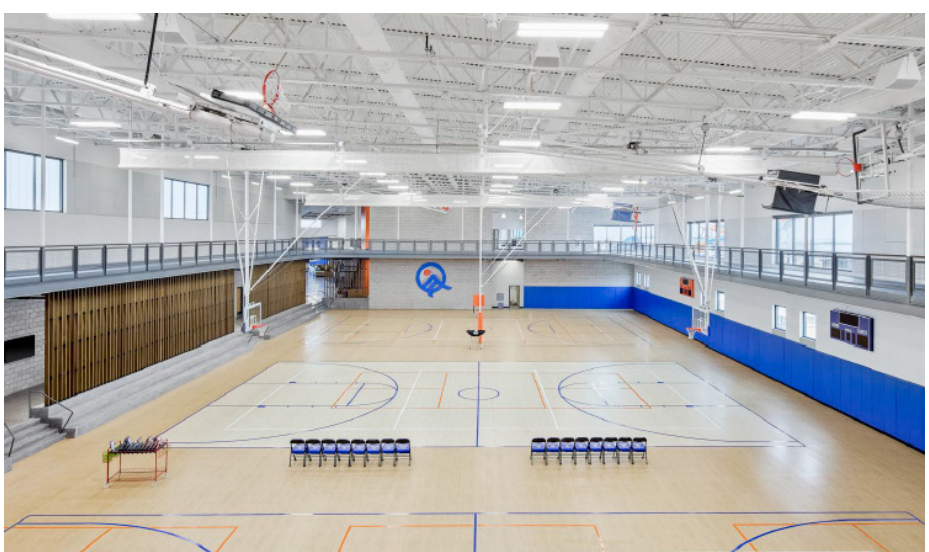
"They've come in and truly looked at, where is the rain coming in, what are the weak points and how are we going to fix it," Robinson said. "They just turned in a plan for repairs in the last week or so. We're looking forward to that getting checked and crossed off the list."

The biggest issue facing the center is the quality of the expansive gym floor as it becomes heavily used.

"(I)t looks amazing and beautiful, but up close, unfortunately, it isn't that amazing and beautiful," Robinson said. "Because of issues we've had over time, working with the contractors (we) made the decision it just needs to be replaced."

It could take up to nine weeks to pull up the current floor and replace it.

"We feel like there is some short-term pain there as a lot of people use that gymnasium floor," Robinson said. "We see long-term gain because the floor we will end up with will be installed right and last us for the next decade."



**The gym floor is not holding up well in its first month, so it has been decided to tear it up and replace it. (Town of Queen Creek)**

Dave Lipinski, the town's director of capital improvements, told the council that the repairs to the roof and the gym floor would not cost additional money.

"We are still under the original construction contract. These aren't warranty items. They're workmanship items," Lipinski told the council. "We're holding (the contractor's) feet to the fire to get it done. It will be at no cost to us."

The Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center is within Frontier Family Park at 22343 E. Ryan Road. Construction on the $67.9 million center began in May 2023 as part of an overall project that included the creation of the 85-acre Frontier Family Park and the 13-acre expansion of Carter Mansel Oasis Park.

Not all the problems facing the new center are structural. Kids ages 9-12 are also proving to be a challenge to center staff.

"We started reaching around to other facilities and it seems to be a common issue. That age group is not quite young enough to keep them with the babies in the child watch — they're just too big for that. But they're also not quite old enough or mature enough to be let to run wild through the facility," Robinson said.

According to Robinson's presentation, "a lack of structured activities or space leads to a noticeable number of unsupervised youth roaming the facility, negatively impacting the experience of other members."

One solution being considered, Robinson said, is taking one or two of the center's current classrooms and converting them into a tween version of the teen room that offers gaming, tailored programming and other activities for older kids.

Center staff is also trying to find a balance between competing resident needs. For example, one common complaint is limited family-swim hours and a lack of evening hours.

"The current full program schedule, especially during the summer, creates a direct conflict, as adding family swim hours would limit the ability to offer swim lessons," the report stated.

To meet such a demand, the report stated that there would need to be a "significant increase in staff hours, adding to the workload of part-time staff who are already working extensive hours."

Overall, council members said they had received positive feedback about the center and growing pains were to be expected when a facility this large and complex opens.

"I am pleasantly surprised that the issues that you're tracking are few," Council Member Jeff Brown said. "(We) knew that these first couple few years were going to be sort of a fine-tuning opportunity and we wouldn't hit every ball out of the park. But I think we've come really close, and I think the suggestions that you're bringing forward and the customer sentiment that you're tracking for us is extremely helpful."

*Please send your comments about this article to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*

### RECREATION & AQUATIC CENTER AT A GLANCE

- 5,600-square-foot fitness floor with two fitness rooms.
- 6,400-square-foot walking track.
- 2,300-square-foot upstairs open fitness area.
- 18,701-square-foot gymnasium primarily designed for sports such as basketball, pickleball, volleyball and badminton.
- 500-foot lazy river for swimmers of all ages and abilities.
- Play pool area with a splash playground, shallow water with a beach entry and lots of places to sit.
- Eight-lane, 25-yard competition pool with diving boards for more experienced swimmers.
- Four water slides, including a slide tower with two racing slides.

Queen Creek

# Currents

Events & Entertainment

## Hometown Christmas!

***Let Queen Creek light up your holidays with special events***



EAST VALLEY

# Area Events



Riparian After Dark (Town of Gilbert)

## Vertuccio Farms Christmas Fest

**Dec. 1-23**
**Vertuccio Farms**
**4011 S. Power Road, Mesa**
Enjoy classic holiday music while strolling around the farm, take pictures in the Giant Ornament and visit the farm's 25-foot Corn Stalk Tree. Kids can zoom down the tube slides, play mini golf, table tennis and corn hole toss. There's also a petting zoo, pony rides and a smores area.

## Water Tower Holiday Lighting

**6-8:30 p.m.**
**Dec. 1**
**Water Tower Plaza**
**45 W. Page Ave., Gilbert**
Kick off the holiday season at the Gilbert Water Tower Holiday Lighting. The event takes place at the newly transformed Water Tower Plaza and the evening will be filled with twinkling lights, festive cheer and fun activities for kids and parents alike.

## Hometown Holidays Parade

**5-8 p.m.**
**Dec. 5**
**Historic Main Street**
**Florence**
Celebrate the holiday season with family and friends in Downtown Historic Florence. This event will feature the lighting of Main Street, food, inflatables, snow, music and the annual Holiday Parade.



Hometown Holiday Parade (Town of Florence)

## Holiday Program & Light Parade

**3-8 p.m.**
**Dec. 6**
**Flatiron Park**
**100 N. Apache Trail, Apache Junction**
The city of Apache Junction hosts this free holiday event. Activities include Santa, vendor booths, arts and crafts, games, music, inflatables, food, the tree lighting at the Focal Point and the annual Holiday Light Parade.



Tumbleweed Tree Lighting Ceremony & Parade of Lights (City of Chandler)

## Tumbleweed Tree Lighting Ceremony & Parade of Lights

**4:30-9 p.m.**
**Dec. 6**
**Downtown Chandler**
**3 S. Arizona Ave., Chandler**
Behold the iconic Tumbleweed Tree, visit with Santa and enjoy musical performances and glowing pageantry of lights. It's an evening of merriment the whole family can enjoy. Every December, brings local businesses, community organizations, families and floats together for one evening in celebration of the holidays. The Parade of Lights features hundreds of thousands of lights that bring joy and cheer to spectators of all ages.

## Riparian After Dark

**5:30-9 p.m.**
**Dec. 12-22**
**Riparian Preserve**
**757 E. Guadalupe Road, Gilbert**
The Riparian Preserve comes alive with a holiday glow during Gilbert's annual Riparian After Dark event. Stroll around the 1.5 miles of trails and walkways that weave through the park and enjoy thousands of holiday lights and displays.

## Arizona Renaissance Festival

**Saturdays and Sundays**
**Jan. 31-March 29**
**12601 E. U.S. Highway 60 in Gold Canyon, just east of Apache Junction**
Huzzahs abound at the Arizona Renaissance Festival, a 50-acre, 16th century European village with 16 stages of nonstop entertainment, music, comedy, falconry, dance, mermaids and acrobatics. Shop, eat and mingle with a cast of nearly 2,000 colorfully costumed characters. Explore the village marketplace with more than 200 shops, studios and galleries filled with arts and crafts. Finally, come one, come all to the festival's most popular attraction, the live jousting tournaments.

480-389-4668
SAN TAN
Youth Football League
ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
SPRING INSTRUCTIONAL SEASON

Season Runs
February-May
Flag and Tackle
Ages 4-14
For more information and to register, visit
www.STYFL.com
480-389-4668


Central Arizona College
PATHS TO GREAT CAREERS!
WE ARE CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE
PINAL COUNTY'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Find Your Path
centralaz.edu

Merry and Bright
CHRISTMAS MARKET
Saturday, December 6 | 10 AM - 2 PM
Central Christian Church - Queen Creek
22505 E Ocotillo Rd
OPEN TO EVERYONE!
SHOP OVER 60 LOCAL ARTISAN VENDORS!
YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR
ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS!


Queen Creek Unified School District
GROW WITH QCUSD

Queen Creek Unified School District offers:
- STEM-Focused Academics
- Certified Teachers
- College & Career Exploration
- Accelerated Learning
www.qcusd.org

FARM FUN

# Agritainment




12th Annual Canada Week (Queen Creek Olive Mill)



The Pecan Lake Farmers Market (Queen Creek Botanical Gardens)

## The Pecan Lake Farmers Market

7-11 a.m.
**Every Saturday**
**Queen Creek Botanical Gardens**
**25002 S. 206th St.**
While parents shop, kids can play on inflatables or visit the petting zoo. Families can also tour the gardens or take gardening classes. Admission and parking are free, and the event is pet-friendly with both indoor and outdoor spaces.

## Christmas at Schnepf Farms

**Nov. 28-Dec. 28**
**Schnepf Farms**
**24810 S. Rittenhouse Road**
Schnepf Farms transforms into a winter wonderland during Christmas at Schnepf Farms.



Christmas at Schnepf Farms (Special to Independent Newsmedia/Arianna Grainey)

Families can enjoy seasonal food, catch a ride on the World of Illumination Express, hop on a hayride to visit Rudolph, journey through Santa's magic workshop or glide on the ice skating rink.

## Queen Creek Family Market

**9 a.m.-2 p.m.**
**Dec. 6 & 13**
**Jan. 10 & 24**
**Feb. 7 & 21**
**Schnepf Farms**
**24810 S. Rittenhouse Road**
Support local artisans by attending the market and buying crafted gifts, home décor, soaps, candles, clothes, kids' items and more. Food trucks and booths are on site and there will be face painting and other activities for kids. There is no entry fee and parking is free. Leashed pets are welcome.

## 2025 Olivepalooza Harvest Festival

**Dec. 13-14**
**Queen Creek Olive Mill**
**25062 S. Meridian Road**
The Queen Creek Olive Mill kick offs milling season and celebrates the arrival of its grown-estate olives. The festival will have farm tours, olive oil 101 classes, a gourmet vendor alley and tastings, live music and games in the grove, live cooking demos, a beer and wine garden, and free admission and parking.




Queen Creek Family Market (Queen Creek Family Market)

## 12th Annual Canada Week

**Jan. 31-Feb. 8**
**Queen Creek Olive Mill**
**25062 S. Meridian Road**
Snowbirds flock here every year to escape the cold and snow back home. The Queen Creek Olive Mill will welcome them back during its 12th Annual Canada Week. The mill will be releasing its limited-edition Maple Balsamic Vinegar and serve Canadian food and drink specials all week long.

# Queen Creek FAMILY MARKET

EST. 2017

2023 WINNER EAST VALLEY FAVORITES INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA YourValley.net

## —2025—

Nov. 15th & 29th
Dec. 6th & 13th

## —2026—

Jan. 10th & 24th
Feb. 7th & 21st
Mar. 7th & 21st
Apr. 11th & 25th

## 9AM–2PM

## Located at Schnepf Farms

24810 S. Rittenhouse Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Schnepf FARMS

Candles, Artisan Jewelery, Soaps & Sundries, Food, Apparel,
Handcrafted Wood Signs, Artwork, Kids Items, Home Decor & More

No Entry Fee | Free Parking

Pet Friendly

Find Us On Facebook & Instagram for Future Events

Queen Creek Family Market | www.queencreekfamilymarket.com

QC DOINGS

# Town Events & Workshops




QC Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting (Town of Queen Creek)

## TOWN EVENTS

### QC Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting

**6-8 p.m.**
**Dec. 5**
**Queen Creek Town Center**
**21802 S. Ellsworth Road**
Kick off the holiday season with the town's Christmas tree lighting celebration.

### QC Hometown Christmas Parade

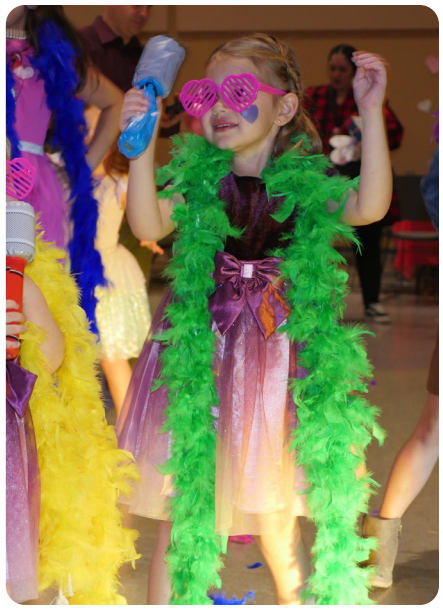
**Dec. 6**
**10 a.m.-noon**
**Town Center**
**21802 S. Ellsworth Road**
The annual holiday parade is now a town of Queen Creek signature event. After 10 years, the Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek handed over production of the parade to the town.

### QC Recycles Drop-off Event

**1-11 a.m.**
**Jan. 17**
**Field Operations Facility**
**19715 South 220th St.**
The event is free for town of Queen Creek residents.

### Love Bug Dance

**6-8 p.m.**
**Friday, Feb. 6**



Love Bug Dance (Town of Queen Creek)

**Recreation Annex**
**21802 S. Ellsworth Road**
The town is hosting its annual "Love Bug" dance for children ages 3 through 12. There will be music, crafts, games, refreshments and dancing. The cost for residents is $15 per adult and $10 per child. Non-residents pay $18.75 for adults and $12.50 for kids. This is not a drop-off event. Parents must stay with their children for the duration of the dance. Pre-registration is required and can be completed online at tinyurl.com/242k3ez4.

## WORKSHOPS

### Citrus Clinic



Gardening workshops are free to all town utility customers. (Town of Queen Creek)

**9-11 a.m.**
**Jan. 17**
**Queen Creek Library, Zane Grey Room**
**21802 S. Ellsworth Road**
In this free class learn the ins and outs of planting, pruning, watering and fertilizing, as well as simple pest and disease diagnosis and care from a local expert. Register at tinyurl.com/242k3ez4.

### Heat Proof Your Desert Landscape

**9-11 a.m.**
**Feb. 7**
**Queen Creek Library, Zane Grey Room**
Hotter summers and record-breaking temperatures are taking a toll on desert landscapes. In this class, horticulturist and author Noelle Johnson shares practical strategies for creating a heat-resilient garden. Register at tinyurl.com/4rw2fy4h.

# Christmas Fest is Back!

## A Farmtastic Holiday Celebration

**Experience the magic of Christmas at the Farm!**
Delight in Christmas cheer with festive music, holiday lights, adorable farm animals, and exciting new attractions the whole family will love.

- Christmas Light Displays
- Life Size Traditional Christmas Nativity Scene
- Family Fun Zone
- Furry Friends
- Fireside S'mores









**Santa's Coming to Town!**
Snap the perfect holiday photo with the big guy himself. December 5-7 & December 12-23, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
***Don't forget your wish list!***

**Tickets Only $15 & Free Parking | Open Daily at 5:30 p.m. | December 1st- 23rd**

Vertuccio Est. 1979 Farms
CHRISTMAS FEST

4011 S. Power Rd., Mesa, Arizona
**(480) 882-1482**

**Visit VertuccioFarms.com**

SCAN FOR TICKETS & INFO






PIEfection

MESA • SCOTTSDALE
CHANDLER • QUEEN CREEK

480.218.PIES
PIEFECTIONAZ.COM

FALL

# Out & About



Heavy rains hit Queen Creek in October, but they couldn't stop the Cops & Bobbers fishing event. (Town of Queen Creek)

## OUT & ABOUT IN QUEEN CREEK

With the temperatures finally dropping in the fall, residents in Queen Creek enjoyed a number of events throughout the town.

On Sept. 20, the town held its Founders' Day event. For the first time, the event was held at the new Frontier Family Park.

On Oct. 11, heavy rains couldn't stop the Queen Creek Police Department's Cops & Bobbers event where kids could fish alongside police officers at Mansel Carter Oasis Park. Cops & Bobbers was part of the department's annual Faith & Blue community carnival.

Residents flocked to the Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre on Nov. 8 for the annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Queen Creek Town Council. Along with enjoying a free breakfast, guests had the opportunity to find out what's new in town government.

All organizations that are hosting events over the coming months are encouraged to send photos of the festivities for possible inclusion in the Queen Creek Independent's Currents quarterly publication. Photos can be emailed to Janet Perez at jperez@iniusa.org.




Kids and Queen Creek Police officers went fishing during the Cops & Bobbers fishing event at the Faith & Blue community carnival at Mansel Carter Oasis Park in October. (Town of Queen Creek)



The Queen Creek Fire and Medical Department was on hand at the town's annual Pancake Breakfast, giving tiny tots a chance to touch a fire truck. (Town of Queen Creek)



A petting zoo was part of the 2025 Founders' Day event on Sept. 20, celebrating the founding of the town of Queen Creek. (Town of Queen Creek)



Families enjoyed a free breakfast at the annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Queen Creek Town Council. (Town of Queen Creek)

# CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## THE #1 BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN AZ!

-NICHE.COM AND RANKING ARIZONA

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**

**AVAILABLE NOW!**



CUSD80.COM @CHANDLERUNIFIED

ON STAGE

# Arts & Entertainment

## ENTERTAINMENT

The Queen Creek Performing Arts Center begins its new season. All performances take place at QCPAC, 22149 E. Ocotillo Road.

### Hooray For Hollywood

**2 p.m.**
**Jan. 17**
Hollywood's greatest musical hits featuring cinema classics such as "A Star is Born," "Frozen," "Flashdance," "Dirty Dancing," "The Wizard of Oz" and more.

### Fleetwood Mac: Go Your Own Way

**2 p.m.**
**Feb. 7**
A tribute to one of the most popular groups of the 1970s. Fleetwood Mac: Go Your Own Way features the best of the band's most famous hits.

### Johnny and Dolly: Together At Last!

**2 p.m.**
**Feb. 14**
Celebrate two legends of country music in one concert in this brand-new production starring two of the most sought-after tribute artists in America. Scott Moreau is Johnny Cash and Karen Hester is Dolly Parton.

### Diva Legends: Songs From the Greatest Female Singers of All Time

**2 p.m.**
**Feb. 21**
Celebrate the hit music of female vocal icons such as Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand, Cher,



BYU Living Legends (QCPAC)

Aretha Franklin, Donna Summer, Whitney Houston and more.

### Legally Blonde: The Musical

**Feb. 26-28**
Sorority President Elle Woods is anxiously awaiting a marriage proposal when her boyfriend, Warner, breaks up instead. Elle devises a plan to follow Warner to Harvard and prove she is more than just a pretty face.

### BYU Living Legends

**Jan. 30**
Celebrating the native cultural heritage of North and South America and the South Pacific, Living Legends presents a vibrant spectacle of energy, music, costume and dance.

The Chandler Performing Arts Center begins its new season. All performances take place at the Chandler Performing Arts Center, 250 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler.

### The Nutcracker presented by Ballet Etudes

**Dec. 5-7**



The Nutcracker presented by Ballet Etudes (CPAC)

Join Ballet Etudes for the 39th annual production of "The Nutcracker." Let Clara's magical journey surround you as she encounters life-sized mice, swirling snowflakes, dancing confections and Sugar Plum fairies.

### 2025 Spirit of Christmas, by Christian Dance Academy

**Dec. 13 & 14, Dec. 20 & 21**
Christian Dance Company presents The Spirit of Christmas, a variety show featuring a cast of more than 100 dancers, singers, a horse and carriage, special guest performers and a champion hoop dancer. This holiday tradition is hosted by Mark Hart.

### All About Broadway: A New Year's Eve Celebration

**8 p.m.**
**Dec. 31**
This production celebrates the best of Broadway with iconic songs from legendary composers such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Rodgers & Hammerstein, plus modern favorites such as "Hamilton," "Mamma Mia," "Neil Diamond's Beautiful Noise,"

• See **Town** on page **27**

## Town

• From page **20**

"Phantom of the Opera" and more,

## Sixtiesmania - A Journey Through The Sixties

**3 p.m.**
**Jan. 11**
The nostalgic adventure spans the thrills of the Beatles' British Invasion to the legendary anthems that defined Woodstock. Sixtiesmania recreates the iconic sounds of beloved artists, including The Rolling Stones, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Doors, The Monkees, The Beach Boys, The Kinks, Cream and many more.

## Kirk Whalum: Songs of Change

**7:30 p.m.**
**Jan. 15**
With a dynamic blend of jazz, gospel and R&B, Kirk Whalum delivers a program featuring "Love Is the Answer," "Keep On Pushing," "Let It Be" and "What's Goin' On."

## CSO Pops: Jordan Bluth Sings Sinatra & Bennett

**3 p.m.**
**Jan. 25**
Local crooner Jordan Bluth brings back favorite Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett songs — some of the great jazz music from the mid-20th century. The Chandler Symphony provides the backup,

## Ailey II

**7:30 p.m.**
**Feb. 6**
Ailey II is a modern dance company founded by the incomparable dancer Alvin Ailey that provides a platform for diverse artists to share the joy and beauty of dance with audiences worldwide.

## Less is More an Evening with Joss Stone

**7:30 p.m.**



Less is More an Evening with Joss Stone (CPAC)

**Feb. 7**
She blends heartfelt vocals with a tight, rhythmic band, bringing songs such as "Tell Me 'Bout It," "You Had Me" and "Right to Be Wrong" to life. Her shows balance energy with smooth delivery, offering a modern take on soul that honors tradition while showcasing her style.

## Beyond Earth: The Quest for Life

**7:30 p.m.**
**Feb. 13**
Embark on a journey of more than two decades of space exploration with leading NASA Engineer Kobie Boykins. After working on the Mars Rover program, Boykins set his sights on more distant frontiers with his most ambitious mission — a circumnavigation of Europa, Jupiter's icy moon.

## Sons of Serendip

**7:30 p.m.**
**Feb. 14**
Billboard-charting, classical-crossover quartet Sons of Serendip won the hearts of fans and judges alike as finalists on "America's Got Talent." Experience their arrangements of songs such as "Somewhere Only We Know" and "Hallelujah" in a romantic evening of music.

## Showtime Series-Walkin' the Line: A Tribute to Johnny Cash

**3 p.m.**
**Feb. 14**
Relive the amazing songs of Johnny Cash in this tribute to the Man in Black. Hear all of Cash's biggest hits, such as "Folsom Prison Blues," "Ring of Fire," "A Boy Named Sue" and "Walk the Line."

The Higley Center for the Performing Arts begins its new season. All performances take place at the Higley Center for the Performing Arts, 4132 E. Pecos Road, Gilbert.

## The Nutcracker

**Dec. 19-21**
Embark on a magical holiday adventure perfect for the whole family in Southwest Youth Ballet Theatre's 19th annual production of the Nutcracker.

## Nathan Pacheco

**7:30 p.m.**
**Dec. 23**
Experience the wonder of the season with acclaimed tenor Nathan Pacheco in his 2025 holiday tour, "Emmanuel, Christmas 2025."

## Fleetwood Mask

**7:30 p.m.**
**Jan. 10**
Fleetwood Mask is the only tribute band in the Americas endorsed by Fleetwood Mac-founding member Mick Fleetwood.

## Frankie Avalon

**7 p.m.**
**Jan. 19**
With a career that spans more than five decades in music, television and motion pictures, Frankie Avalon has certainly made the transition from teen idol to legendary star.

## Toast-The Ultimate Bread Experience

**7 p.m.**
**Feb. 2**
Toast is tribute band to the '70s hit band, Bread. Toast presents a "feel-good" show that includes all of Bread's top hits

# THE SHOOTING RANGE

Your Friendly Neighborhood Shooting Range

2022 WINNER EAST VALLEY FAVORITES
2023 WINNER EAST VALLEY FAVORITES
2024 WINNER EAST VALLEY FAVORITES

STILL Your Favorite Firearms Store



FAMILY FRIENDLY
20 LANES
FULL RETAIL SHOP
RENTAL FIREARMS
CLASSES
MEMBERSHIPS
COMPETITIONS
PRIVATE PARTIES
& MORE

MONDAY - SATURDAY
9AM - 8PM
SUNDAY
11AM - 5PM
LADIES DAY
TUESDAY & THURSDAY

2 FOR 1 RANGE TIME
+FREE FIREARM RENTAL

DISCOUNT VALID WITH COUPON
STANDARD RULES APPLY



(480) 840-9202
18618 SOUTH 186TH WAY, QUEEN CREEK, AZ 85142
WWW.THESHOOTINGRANGEAZ.COM

VINYL PLANK • LAMINATE • WOOD • TILE • CARPET

# Christmas Flooring SALE

OFFER CODE 0383





SELECT STYLES & PRODUCTS*

SAVE ADDITIONAL

$750 OFF*



HALF PRICE INSTALLATION SALE

All flooring types!

Wholesale Pricing to the Public!

Lifetime Labor Warranty*

$35 ROOM SALE*

PET & CHILD PROOF FLOORING



Scratch & Stain resistant*

Waterproof flooring*

FREE in-home shopping



NO INTEREST up to 60 MONTHS

Worry Free Guarantee*
(You break it, we fix it, within 1 yr)

FREE AIR DUCT CLEANING
with qualified Flooring Purchase*

Senior Citizens, First Responders, Teachers, Military

Gov GET add' 10% OFF!*

call or text

(602) 691-4610

Call today for a FREE in-home consultation.

www.FloorDaddy.com







FLOOR DADDY

SEXY FLOORING | AFFORDABLE PRICES | QUALITY INSTALL

ROC 352055

Google ★★★★★

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS





Licensed bonded and insured.

Must present a coupon or ad at the time of initial appointment. Offers are first appointment incentives only and only good if both decision-makers are present. Cannot combine offers. $35 room sale, must buy the largest room at regular price, each additional room, $35 for product only. Must pay for labor. 12x15 is min size to be included. Rooms greater in size or using upgraded flooring will add additional costs. Does not include stairs or rip up. Financing is based on approved credit. $5,500 min purchase for free air duct cleaning.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

HUGE SALE! • NEW FLOORING • VINYL PLANK • TILE • CARPET • LAMINATE

HUGE SALE! • NEW FLOORING • VINYL PLANK • TILE • CARPET • LAMINATE

# Hometown Heroes Awards© Winner

## Educator

## Jarrod Posner



A native of Long Island, New York, Jarrod Posner has fallen in love with Queen Creek. Posner moved to Arizona in 2002 and Queen Creek in 2016 and loves the small-town feel.

It's the right environment for the teacher and softball coach from Benjamin Franklin Charter School-Crismon Campus. "Being able to affect the lives of children in a positive way. I love building relationships that last for years," he said.

Not surprisingly, his favorite community causes all center on helping children, something he does every day.

With that in mind, Posner said he strives to be kind and caring to all people because one never knows what impact even the most causal encounters can have on another person's life.

**Business Name:** Benjamin Franklin Charter School-Crismon Campus

**Town/neighborhood:** Queen Creek

**When and why I moved here:** Been here since 2016 — love the small-town feel.

**What I like most about living here:** The people, the mountains.

**What I do:** Teacher and softball coach.

**Personal background highlights:** Originally from Long Island, New York, came out to AZ in 2002.

**Professional background highlights:** Been teaching for almost 20 years and coaching for 15 years.

**What I like most about what I do:** Being able to affect the lives of children in a positive way. I love building relationships that last for years.

**What does being nominated for this category mean to you?** It is an honor and I am humbled. I don't feel like a "hero."

**What does it mean to be a Queen Creek resident?** Queen Creek is amazing. While I miss some of the small-town feel it used to have, it still has a great small-town community vibe.

**What do you think you bring to the local community that makes it better?** I just try to be the best me every day.

**What would you tell people about why it's important to make a difference in Queen Creek?** Queen Creek has the chance to be one of the best small/large cities in Arizona. The people here are kind, and it is important that we remain neighborly and close-knit, even while we grow.

**Changes I'd like to see in this area:** I would love to see the growth slowed down just a bit so they can make better roads. I also would love to see more locally owned restaurants and stores!

**Favorite community cause and why:** Anything that is for children!

**My family:** I am married and have two kids and two granddaughters.

**My interests and hobbies:** I have a small card collectible business-baseball, football, etc. I also like attending car shows.

**The trait(s) I admire in others:** Honesty, integrity, hard-work, positivity.

**People who inspired me (and how):** Jackie Robinson-pushed boundaries, persevered. More personal, my wife-she has Stage 4 cancer and fights every day with a toughness and perseverance that I can only dream of having.

**My guiding philosophy:** The impact you have on people matters. Remember that. You may not even know you impacted them, but you have. For that reason, always be kind, be caring, be true and be real.

**My advice to today's youth:** Every day I tell them to work hard, focus on God and family, be who they are, be kind to others, stay off the screens, respect your parents and family and remember that you have every opportunity to live the life you dream of — you just have to go out and earn it! Work for it. Never quit.

The Queen Creek Independent is pleased to announce Jarrod Posner as the December 2025 Hometown Hero bestowed in the category of Educator. The Queen Creek Independent along with East Valley Institute of Technology and the Queen Creek Olive Mill salute Mr. Posner as this month's Queen Creek Hometown Heroes Awards recipient.

HH Hometown Heroes Awards

Congratulations Mr. Posner from Queen Creek Independent

# Nominate Your Queen Creek Hometown Hero

HOMETOWN HEROES AWARDS

Hometown Heroes Awards is a celebration of individuals for their local achievements and distinguished contributions for the community of Queen Creek.

**ALWAYS SEEKING NOMINATIONS!**

Email your nominee's name and contact info to **aznews@iniusa.org or Call 623-972-6101**

Subject Line: Queen Creek Hometown Heroes Awards

**January issue: Deadline is Monday, December 8th**

**If you know of a deserving person who lives and/or works in Queen Creek, call or email us today!**

## Nominations Needed For:

**Veteran:** Former military person who continues to serve within the community
**Emergency Responder:** Person who steps forward during an emergency
**Trailblazer:** Individual who launches a path for others to follow through unsettled endeavors.
**Entrepreneur:** An individual who launches an idea into a new business and serves the community
**Lifetime Achievement:** Long standing community member who has consistently stepped forward and exemplified a passion for giving back to the Queen Creek community within any category
**Leader of Tomorrow (17 or younger):** Youth who shows leadership and involvement within the community

## Congratulations 2025-2026 Queen Creek Hometown Heroes Awards Winners

**Educator:** Jarrod Posner, Teacher and Coach, Benjamin Franklin Charter School - Crismon Campus
**Volunteer:** Julie Hartman, Volunteer, Town of Queen Creek, Queen Creek Chamber, Central Christian Church
**Healthcare:** Amy Webster, Founder, Hope Heart Heal Medical Nonprofit
**Spiritual Leader:** Curt McReynolds, Campus Pastor, CCV Queen Creek
**Mentor/Coach:** Jake Allen, Teacher/Coach, Crismon High School and Co-Founder, MAW Wrestling Academy
**Community Cheerleader:** Patty Campbell, Governing Board Member- Queen Creek Unified School District

apprenticeships • associate degrees • high school programs
your future. your way.
HANDS-ON TRAINING • CLASSES BEGIN SOON
ENROLLING NOW
2026-27
IN MORE THAN 50 CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS
SCAN TO START YOUR ENROLLMENT PROCESS
APPLY TODAY evit.edu/enroll
evit COLLEGE AND CAREER

CONGRATULATIONS QUEEN CREEK HOMETOWN HEROES!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!
QUEEN CREEK OLIVE MILL ARIZONA
FARM • MARKET • EATERY
QUEENCREEKOLIVEMILL.COM

Do your employees understand their health insurance?
Do you have HR at your fingertips?
Are you aware of compliance laws?
Do you regularly hear from your broker?
If you answered NO to any of these questions then it's time to experience...
The A and H Difference!
A and H Insurance
Grace Daidone
Benefits Specialist
gDaidone@aandhins.com
(480) 454-3005
HEALTH & LIFE BENEFITS PROGRAMS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES







## Rec Center

• From page **4**

berships at 1,165 make up 20%, or $228,000. The more than 32,000 day passes generated 16%, or $183,000, over the first six months. Monthly passes came in at 1,044, making up 13%, or $150,000.

Day passes run from $5 to $7 per adult. For a single adult, it costs $35 for a one-month membership, $90 for three months and $300 annually.

For a household of four, the monthly membership is $75, three months is $200 and $700 annually. Detailed memberships fees can be found at tinyurl.com/54a69ark.

"The summer three-month swim period was very, very popular and then annual memberships were probably, frankly, a larger number than what we expected and kind of the core of the revenues when we talk about the revenue setting," Robinson said.

Program fees and rentals equaled 19%, or $213,000.

"We feel like those are the numbers that have the most room for improvement as we move forward and more people find out about the facility and what we operate and what we offer," Robinson said.

The center's annual budget is $6.9 million.

Combining monthly, three-month and annual numbers, the center has logged 2,968 memberships in its first six months. With those memberships often covering families, the total number of Queen Creek residents who are members of the center stands at 8,869.

Not surprisingly, the aquatic center has been the biggest draw.

When the recreation portion of the center held its grand opening on March 29, there were 1,668 weekly visitors.

The grand opening of the aquatic center on May 24 drew 5,491 people that week.

"After summer's over, we're starting to see a normalized average visitation of about 3,500-3,900 visitors (per week), and we expect to see that throughout the year, but it'll be interesting to see the next six months for the winter season how it pans out," Robinson said.



**Many residents are calling for more family swim time hours at the aquatic center. (Town Queen Creek)**

The pool has capacity for 800 people, with peak attendance hitting 542 in one day. On average, the pool logged 380 visitors per day.

"When the decision was made to go resident-only, the biggest concern seemed to be the aquatic center more than anything else and the experience had there," Robinson said. "I think all summer the facility was busy and exciting and fun but never overcrowded and never feeling uncomfortable or unsafe. And that was important for us, especially for our first summers. We count these numbers as a huge success."

*Please send your comments about this article to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*

COUNTY/STATE

# Mesa puts assistant police chief under investigation



Mesa Police Assistant Chief Ed Wessing. (City of Mesa)

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Mesa Police Department Assistant Chief Ed Wessing is under investigation for allegations of misconduct.

Wessing is being investigated for failure to obey city management policies and/or personnel rules or official city communications, according to multiple media reports.

The city of Mesa provided the following statement to the Mesa Independent regarding the investigation:

"The city does not comment on personnel matters that are under investigation.

"As an organization committed to ensuring a safe and respectful workplace, we take all complaints seriously and will follow established procedures to ensure due process."

According to the city of Mesa's website, Wessing has served with Mesa Police for nearly 30 years and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years before joining the department.

Wessing oversees multiple divisions within the department and has worked a variety of assignments since joining.

ONLINE PUZZLES!
$1 for the first month with a digital subscription
YourValley.net/puzzle
DAILY INDEPENDENT at YourValley.net

Your Local Flooring Experts
From luxurious plush carpets to sturdy vinyl plank flooring and exquisite custom area rugs, we have the area's most extensive selection of quality floor covering options to complement every room in your home.
MESA SALES
Serving Mesa Since 1975!
Flooring Products and Installation
Window Coverings and Installation
New!
Countertops
2760 East Main Street #106 | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-833-7025
mesasalesandsupply.com
• Free 1/2 inch, 6lb pad with new carpet
• 50% Off Binding for new Custom Area Rug!
• Free Moisture barrier for new LVP!
Visit our Showroom
Hours
Mon 9:00am-5:00pm
Tue 9:00am-5:00pm
Wed 9:00am-5:00pm
Thu 9:00am-5:00pm
Fri 9:00am-5:00pm
Sat 9:00am-1:00pm
Sun Appointment Only
Financing & Discounts Available

Pittman & Davis
Farm Fresh Gifts Since 1926



REG. $29.99
NOW $19.99
+ $7.99 SHIPPING
SAVE 32%

#PTZX Christmas Tree Pretzels

Crisp, golden pretzels shaped like cheerful Christmas trees are dipped in smooth, creamy white confectioner's coating, then sprinkled with merry red and green accents for a treat as beautiful as it is delicious. Presented in our exclusive Pittman & Davis holiday tin, these festive sweets are perfect for sharing, gifting, or brightening up your holiday table.

- Pretzels covered in creamy white confectioner's coating
- Decorated with festive red-and-green sprinkles
- Just the right balance of salty and sweet flavors
- Presented in a Pittman & Davis exclusive citrus holiday tin

Pittman & Davis
Farm Fresh Gifts Since 1926
CALL 1-888-718-6608
OR VISIT PITTMANDAVIS.COM/P6YG23
Order Item #PTZX, mention Code P6YG23
PITTMAN & DAVIS • HARLINGEN, TX 78552
IC: P6YG23

Save the Dates
SENIOR EXPO
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
THE PREMIER SENIOR HEALTH & LIFESTYLE EXPOS



Apache Junction • January 7, 2026 • Central Arizona College
Surprise • January 27, 2026 • The Colonnade
Litchfield Park/Goodyear • Feb. 18, 2026 • Tuscany Falls Ballroom
Chandler • February 24, 2026 • Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria • March 26, 2026 • Westbrook Village
SunCity West • April 22, 2026 • SCW Foundation
Sun City • May 4, 2026 • Sundial Rec Center
Surprise • August 18, 2026 • The Colonnade

INTERESTED IN A SPONSORSHIP?
EMAIL AZADS@INIUSA.ORG OR CALL 623-972-6101

NEIGHBORS

# Bear cub saved by East Valley first responders



Queen Creek Firefighter Rob Keay helped to capture a bear cub from a palm tree in Florence. (PCSO)



Dubbed Ted, the bear cub had been eluding PCSO and the Arizona Game & Fish Department for a week. (PCSO)

**By Janet Perez**
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It seems cats aren't the only animals firefighters rescue from trees.

Recently, a bear cub seen wandering around San Tan Valley for a week was finally captured thanks to the efforts of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Queen Creek Fire and Medical Department and Rural Metro Fire.

The cub, dubbed Ted, was corralled at the top of a palm tree at Arizona Farms and Felix roads in Florence.

"(T)his little bear cub was spotted wandering in San Tan Valley, but PCSO and Arizona Game & Fish Department were unable to track him and find probable 'claws' for an arrest," according to a post on PCSO's Facebook page.

After little Ted ran up the palm tree, QCFMD and Rural Metro used a fire truck ladder to safely bring the cub back to the ground, where it was tagged by the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

Representing Queen Creek Fire in the rescue was station 411 and Firefighter Rob Keay.

"We were called out on mutual aid, so we responded assisting PCSO and AZ Game and Fish, who was really the lead in the rescue mission, if you will," said QCFMD spokesperson Jennifer Lamis. "We just happened to have the ladder truck that I believe was tall enough to be able to access it.

"(Keay) is just smiling from ear to ear, so excited to hold that bear. He was so happy."

Arizona Game & Fish successfully released the cub back into the wild in the mountains near Globe, according to a post on the Rural Metro Facebook page.

"I guess his beach vacation was short lived. But at least he got to hang out with some cool firefighters," Rural Metro posted.

*Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*

NEIGHBORS

# Local teen helps Coolidge kids get back-to-school-supplies

A former Queen Creek Hometown Hero continues his work giving back to the community.

More than 50 students from Coolidge Elementary School recently joined Campbell's Crew Cares founder Campbell Faulkner on a $25,000 shopping spree at the Queen Creek Walmart Supercenter, 21055 E. Rittenhouse Road.

Faulkner, 18, was named Leader of Tomorrow by the Queen Creek Independent in 2023 when he was 16 for establishing Campbell's Crew Cares.

On Sept. 6, Faulkner was presented with a $25,000 check by Angie Bills, manager of the Queen Creek Walmart Supercenter and winner of Walmart's Helen R. Walton award to provide donations to community nonprofits.

Campbell put the money to good use by footing the bill so the students from Coolidge Elementary could stock up on back-to-school clothing essentials, according to a press release.

The students were also able to select a special toy from Campbell's Toy Chest and were treated to lunch. Additional funds will support efforts for students during the holidays, the release continued.

"Campbell's Crew Cares selected Coolidge Elementary after a teacher shared how hard-working families were struggling to make ends meet. The Campbell's team has seen firsthand what a difference new clothes and supplies make for students," the release stated.

Faulkner has mitochondrial disease, a disorder that occurs when the mitochondria are unable to completely burn food and oxygen to generate energy. Symptoms might include poor growth, developmental delays and muscle weakness. There's no cure, but symptoms can be managed with physical therapy and medications.

He was inspired to create Campbell's Crew Cares in 2017 when he was just 11 after the Make a Wish Foundation sent him to Wrigley Field in Chicago to go see Kyle Schwarber, then of the Chicago Cubs, play ball. On the flight home, Faulkner asked to create a charity, so he could help people in need because of all the people who had helped him.

Faulkner, now "chief inspirational officer" of Campbell's Crew Cares, works with businesses and individuals to collect donations to help children and families in need and provide them with clothing and food.



Students from Coolidge Elementary were treated to a back-to-school shopping spree on Sept. 6 thanks for Campbell's Crew Cares, a nonprofit founded by Queen Creek teen Campbell Faulkner. (Courtesy of Campbell's Crew Cares)



COMMUNITY

# Queen Creek to provide financial assistance to the town of San Tan Valley

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Queen Creek and San Tan Valley have entered into an agreement in which Queen Creek will provide the new town with an up to $250,000 a month loan to help the San Tan Valley government get on its feet.

Recently, the Queen Creek Town Council and the San Tan Town Council voted to approve the intergovernmental agreement at their respective meetings.

"Council was supportive of (San Tan Valley) incorporating. We did resolutions of support a few times,

• See **Assistance** on page **37**



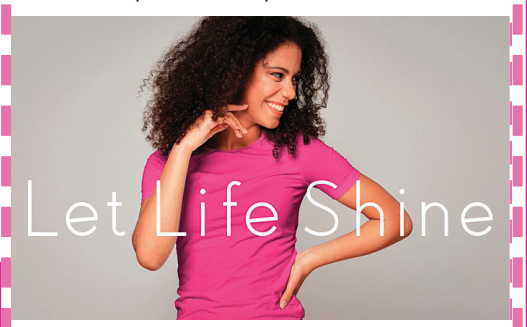
Members of the inaugural San Tan Valley Town Council were sworn in on Sept. 25. At a recent meeting, both the San Tan Valley council and the Queen Creek Town Council approved an intergovernmental agreement that offers temporary financial assistance to the new town. (Pinal County)



two maids
A Maid Service Worth Talking About

FALL SPECIAL
$100 OFF
Recurring Cleaning
($20 off first 5 visits) Offer expires 12-30-25.

$150 OFF
Deep Clean or Move In/ Move Out Clean
First time customers only. One time use with coupon. Offer expires 12-30-25.




License #00825-2018

480-550-8282 · TwoMaidsCleaning.com

## Assistance

• From page 36

including this latest effort and once that was all said and done council provided me direction to reach out to them to see what other opportunities we could support them on," Queen Creek Town Manager Bruce Gardner said before the meeting. "And through some of those discussions Allen Quist, who's San Tan Valley's town attorney, this came forward and so it's something that we're certainly willing to do."

The agreement was on the Queen Creek council's consent agenda, and no separate discussion was held on the matter. It was passed on a 5-0 vote. Council Member Jeff Brown was absent from the meeting and Mayor Julia Wheatley remains on leave.

The San Tan Valley seven-member council unanimously voted to approve the agreement.

"So, good neighbors," said San Tan Valley Mayor Daren Schnepf. "The fact that they would be able to help us along and paying some of our bills, I guess you could say, is a great plus for this."

Under the terms of the agreement, Queen Creek will provide up to a quarter-million a month in loans to the new town until Nov. 1, 2026, or until San Tan Valley receives its state-shared revenue, which is expected to be about $51 million.

The earliest the state-shared revenue could be given to San Tan Valley is July 2026. That revenue cannot be disbursed until a census in San Tan Valley is completed.

The money will come from Queen Creek's general fund savings. San Tan Valley will reimburse the town all advanced funds at an interest rate of 4% of the annual percentage rate, which is what the town receives from an interest-bearing account.

The monthly loans will allow the new town to pay the salaries of at least three employees it expects to hire this year or early next — town manager, town clerk and finance director.

Along with the salaries, Queen Creek will directly pay invoices from San Tan Valley's vendors, contractors or agencies for verified expenses.

Schnepf announced before the vote on the agreement that the town of San Tan Valley would begin accepting applications for the town manager and clerk posts. Currently, the town's clerk is a volunteer.

As San Tan Valley Council Member Daniel Oakes clarified, the town would not have to accept $250,000 each month, but it does have the option to get the full amount if needed. In addition, Queen Creek is not charging San Tan Valley an administrative fee for paying invoices and salaries.

"I just (want to show) my appreciation for the town of Queen Creek for giving us a helping hand. That is very commendable," Council Member Brian Tyler said.

On Aug. 5, residents of a portion of unincorporated San Tan Valley voted in favor of incorporating the area. The successful incorporation drive started in 2023 and was spearheaded by San Tan Valley Inc. Past efforts to incorporate San Tan Valley failed in 2004, 2010 and 2017.

On Sept. 17, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors selected seven people to serve on the inaugural San Tan Valley Town Council. The council then elected Schnepf as mayor and Tyler Hudgins, chairman of San Tan Valley Inc., as vice mayor.

On July 1, 2026, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors will pass all responsibility for the area to the new town leaders.

*Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*






COMMUNITY

# Certain events may now require permit from Queen Creek

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Residents and organizations will soon have to get a permit from the town to hold certain events.

At a recent meeting, the Queen Creek Town Council voted to approve a new ordinance that establishes a system for obtaining an event permit.

"The police department was asked to put together potential code amendments to address an ongoing issue that we've seen since we've been live as a police department," Queen Creek Police Chief Randy Brice told the council. "The main driver behind why we were asked to look at this is that we've seen a significant growth over the years — specifically in the number, size, complexity — of the special events that are affecting both public and private property and how the private property sector is impacting the public property, specifically roadways and other areas like that."



Events such as block parties will now require a permit from the town. (Town of Queen Creek)

The issue passed on a 4-1 vote. Council Member Travis Padilla voted against the ordinance. Vice Mayor Leah Martineau was absent from the meeting and Mayor Julia Wheatley is on leave until late fall.

The ordinance went into effect during the second week of November. There will be no charge for permits.

In requiring a permit, the town will be looking at six factors:

- On town property
- Events that deviate from the permitted use, zoning, occupancy classification, land-use designation.
- Events that require a level of public safety personnel or resources that would interfere with the normal routine operations of the town's public-safety purposes.
- Private events that impact public roadways.

• See **Events** on page **39**



## Events

• From page 38

• Events involving amplified sound, fireworks or pyrotechnics.

• Events requiring state-issued liquor licenses.

A permit may be denied or revoked if an event is already scheduled at the requested location, if there are resource constraints regarding public safety personnel, if there is false information on the application or if the event poses a risk to public safety or town operations, Brice said. Denials can be appealed.

While police can step in quickly to control an event on town land, challenges remain with private events.

Brice detailed a private party in a dimly lit section of town that drew "close to probably a thousand juveniles."

The teens were parking in unauthorized areas on the street or lots, home driveways and crossing the street at random locations with no crosswalks. Brice said they had no mechanism to shut down the party and could only deal with the fallout on public property. Eventually 22 officers had to handle the event until it ended.

Under the new ordinance, if an event is unauthorized or violating the terms of the permit, the police will first issue a verbal warning.

"However, if a person, applicant or permittee continues to conduct or stage a special event after being issued a verbal warning, written notice or civil citation for a violation of (the ordinance) within the preceding 24 hours, the offense may be charged as a class 1 misdemeanor," according to a staff report.

In voting against the measure, Padilla cited concerns that the ordinance did not offer enough guidance on when a permit would be needed due to sound amplification.

Brice said a small party where a neighbor complains about noise might warrant a police officer visit but "that's not what we're looking for," Brice said.

"We're talking about these big events where people bring in a DJ, they have a live band where they've got speakers everywhere or they've got a big giant big-screen TV and they've got speakers," Brice said. "Those are the places where if we give them a permit, they can do it legally and we can tell people (who complain) they've got a permit."

Most events will require that a permit be requested 60 days before. Tournaments will require 30-day notice and 14 days for neighborhood block parties. Applications will be processed in the town's eProval system.

For residents who don't know if their event needs a permit, the town plans to offer in-person assistance, as well as detailed guidance on its website.

*Please send your comments about this article to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*






## Groundwater

• From page 8

water to Buckeye, the city is taking proactive steps to ensure sustainable growth for generations to come."

Earlier this year, Queen Creek closed on the purchase of the 5,000 acre-feet of Harquahala water for $40 million. In September, the town approved a purchase agreement for an additional 1.2 million acre-feet of Harquahala water, or almost 39 billion gallons, over the next 110 years in increments of 12,000-acre feet per year.

By approving the agreement, the town locked in a price of $20,000 per acre-foot if it purchases access to the entire 1.2 million acre-feet of water by Feb. 15, 2026 — a one-time cost of $240 million.

In November, the council voted on a funding mechanism for the purchase.

For Queen Creek, the Harquahala purchase is an important part of the town's overall goal of becoming a designated water provider, eliminating its dependence on the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District, or CAGRD.



**Buckeye and Queen Creek are purchasing thousands of acre feet of water from the Harquahala Valley. (Wikimedia Commons/dedhed1950)**

"We believe this will get us to about 70% of the water supply that we need for buildout and will allow us to become designated. And then when the Bartlett Dam project comes online, that will get us 100% to the finish line of being 100% off of groundwater," Gardner said in September.

Bartlett Dam is located on the Verde River northeast of Phoenix. The SRP-led project could potentially raise the dam by about 100 feet to increase water storage capacity.

In 2023, the town began receiving 2,033 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year in perpetuity from Cibola, Arizona. The town made a one-time payment of $24 million for the water rights.

Gardner said the goal is to start the application to become a designated water provider in January 2026 and receive the official designation by January 2027.

Becoming a designated water provider is one, though important, solution to the state-mandated 100-year water supply certification developers need to create more housing.

"The Queen Creek council is doing more than any (town) I know to address that issue," Lake said. "So, kudos to Queen Creek because they're really trying to solve it, but it's a big, heavy lift to do it and expensive."

*Please send your comments about this article to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.*

RED MOUNTAIN FLOORING AZ
RM®
10104 E. APACHE TRAIL APACHE JUNCTION
480-380-3211
"YOUR FLOORING PROFESSIONALS"
WE SELL CARPET- TILE - LAMINATE - WOOD - VINYL
WE CLEAN CARPET - TILE - GROUT - UPHOLSTERY
WE DO FLOOR REPAIR AND MORE
ROC #201105
IICRC CERTIFIED
$20.00 OFF CARPET CLEANING!!**
INCLUDES: Pre-treatment, spot treatment, no-residue rinse, rake & deodorizer as needed, truck mount hot water extraction
480-380-3211
*DISCOUNT OFF MINIMUM JOB OF $120.00
$35.00 OFF TILE AND GROUT CLEANING!!**
100% EVERY INCH GUARANTEE!!
480-380-3211
*DISCOUNT OFF MINIMUM JOB OF 235 S/F

SHADE SCREENS • ROLL SHADES • RAIN GUTTERS
ARMADILLO, LLC DBA A-1 Seamless Gutters
• New Installation • Rainwater Harvesting
• Reconfigure • Sunscreens and Roll Shades
SunTex 80/90 BY PHIFER
SCREENS: 480-883-9255 sunscreens-armadillo.com
GUTTERS: 480-570-1011 a-1seamlessraingutter.com
Licensed Bonded Insured ROC 195034 ROC 322703

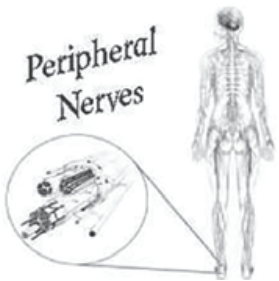
★2025★ EAST VALLEY FAVORITES INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE EAST VALLEY FAVORITES!
Thank You For Your Vote for East Valley Favorites!
evf-2025.YourValley.Net
Winners Announced Jan. 1, 2026

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

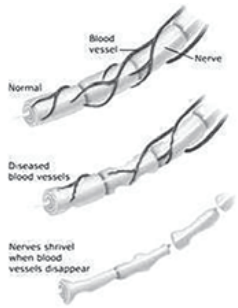
# PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

Mesa, AZ — The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your chronic pain and/or neuropathy is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and are primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of

Chronic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems. This damage is commonly caused by a hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.




As you can see in Figure 2, as the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased they shrivel up which causes the nerves to not get the nutrients to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to "die" they cause you to have balance problems, pain, numbness, tingling, burning, and many additional symptoms. The main problem is that your doctor has told you




to just live with the problem or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. There is now a facility right here in Mesa that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs with serious side effects.

(See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article) neuropathy three factors must be determined.

1) What is the underlying cause?

2) How much nerve damage has been sustained.

NOTE: Once you have sustained 95% nerve loss, there is likely nothing that we can do for you.

3) How much treatment will your condition require?

The treatment that is provided at Aspen Medical has three main goals.

1) Increase blood flow

2) Stimulate and increase small fiber nerves

3) Decrease brain-based pain

The treatment to increase blood flow, stimulate small nerve fibers and get you back to health is our new $50,000.00 SANEXAS UNIT!

In addition, we use a state-of-the-art diagnostics like the TM Flow diagnostic unit to accurately determine the increase in blood flow and small skin biopsy to accurately determine the increase in small nerve fibers!

The Sanexas electric cell signaling system delivers energy to the affected area of your body at varying wavelengths, including both low-frequency and middle-frequency signals. It also uses amplitude modulated (AM) and frequency modulated (FM) signaling. During a treatment session, the Sanexas system automatically changes to simultaneously deliver AM and FM electric cell signal energy.

THE GREAT NEWS IS THAT SANEXAS IS COVERED BY MOST INSURANCE! (Medicare restrictions apply) Depending on your coverage, your treatment could be little to no cost to you!

The amount of treatment needed to allow the nerves to fully recover varies from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. As long as you have not sustained at least 95% nerve damage there is hope!

Aspen Medical will do a chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage as a public service to you and/or your family and friends. This neuropathy/pain severity examination will consist of a detailed sensory evaluation, extensive peripheral vascular testing, and a detailed analysis of the findings of your neuropathy.



**Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until December 30, 2025. Call 480-796-1136** to make an appointment to determine if your chronic pain and peripheral neuropathy can be successfully treated.

Due to our busy office schedule, we are limiting this FREE consultation to the first 15 callers. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUFFER ANOTHER MINUTE, CALL. Call 480-796-1136 … NOW!

We are extremely busy and if your call goes to our voicemail, please leave a message and we will get back to you asap.

ASPEN MEDICAL PLLC
GIVING YOU HELP WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED

**480-796-1136**

**4540 E. Baseline Rd., Ste 119**
**Mesa, AZ 85206**

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED ADS

**VISIT US @ iniusa.org/classifieds | EMAIL US: azads@iniusa.org**

**DEADLINE: Wednesdays by 3pm | OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm**

## EMAILS

azads@iniusa.org
legals@iniusa.org
azobits@iniusa.org

To place your ad call us at
**623.972.6101**

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

## AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

**$20 per market - 30 words**
Your ad appears in the newspaper of choice plus online
$5.00 for color and each additional photo
25¢ extra per additional word

**$60 four markets - 30 words**
Your ad appears in four newspapers of choice plus online
$5.00 for color and each additional photo
25¢ extra per additional word

## BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES

Starting at **$45**
for one column by three-inch advertisement
$15.00 per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
4-weeks minimum

## EMPLOYMENT ADS

Starting at **$45**
for one column by three-inch advertisement
$15.00 per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)
Logo and photos included
No minimum commitment requirement

**CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE**
Create Your Own Ads Online, It's Easy!
Go to: iniusa.org/classifieds
then select "Place an ad"

## Announcement

**NOTICE**
**Independent Newspapers**
will not knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is.
If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 877-291-6222 for previous complaints.

## Garage Sales

**PRESBY PICKINS' FLEA MARKET**

**Sat., Dec. 6**
13001 Fountain Hills Blvd, Fountain Hills, Presbyterian Church parking lot.

58 vendor spots, food trucks and live music. Shop, shop, shop! Toys, collectibles, household, jewelry, art, crafts, and more!

More info: fhpresbyterian.info/fleamarket.

## Full Time

**Valley Newspapers is Hiring!**
Full time delivery driver for busy print shop. 26-foot box truck with lift gate. Must have clean driving record and pass physical. Competitive wages with benefits. Contact Mike Jacobs at mjacobs@iniusa.org

**SELL IT NOW**
**PLACE AN AD**
**623-972-6101**

## Concrete

**Bill Tui**
**Quality Concrete & Construction**



- Remodeling Bathroom, Kitch.
- Concrete
- Patio
- Driveway
- Sidewalk
- Paver
- Brick Work
- Turf
- Cool Deck
- Seal Driveway

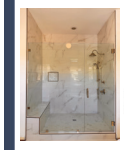
**FREE Quote**
**Call Bill**
**602-299-1786**

## Electrical

FOR ALL OF YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS
2022 WINNER EAST VALLEY
ROC - 133603
**D.T.L. ELECTRIC INC**
IF ELECTRIC RUNS TO IT, WE CAN DO IT!
FREE ESTIMATES
• Licensed • Bonded • Insured
480-226-8850




## Glass Repair




GilbertGlass Corporation
Call us today! **(480)892-1556**
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Glass Repair & Replacement
Window Replacement • Shower Doors

## Home Improvement

**TEWA BUILDS**
QUALITY WORK GUARANTEED
We Provide These Services
- Built- in cabinetry and shelving
- Door installation and repair
- Custom woodworking
- Door and window trim
- Crown molding

HONEST ESTIMATES
tewabuilds.com ROC# 341211
**480-332-2187**
info@tewabuilds.com

## Gutters

RAIN GUTTER EXPRESS
Quality Products & Service
- Seamless 5" & 6" Gutter Installation
- Custom Fabrication
- Cleaning, Restoring & Repair
FREE ESTIMATES!
www.RainGutterExpress.com
602-300-7472
LICENSED BONDED · INSURED
ROC#347844

## Landscaping

Services:
- Tree Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Removal
- Wood Chipper
- Tractor Work Available
- Yard Maintenance
- Yard Clean ups
- Pavers
JOSE R CORTEZ LANDSCAPING
FREE ESTIMATES
Please call or text - 480-232-2095

## Painting

CRAIG ALLEN PAINTING
Exterior/Interior
Drywall Repairs
Epoxy Floors
Free No Pressure Estimate!
Owner Operated
Licensed-Bonded-Insured-ROC #330199
480-221-7375
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## Pool & Spa

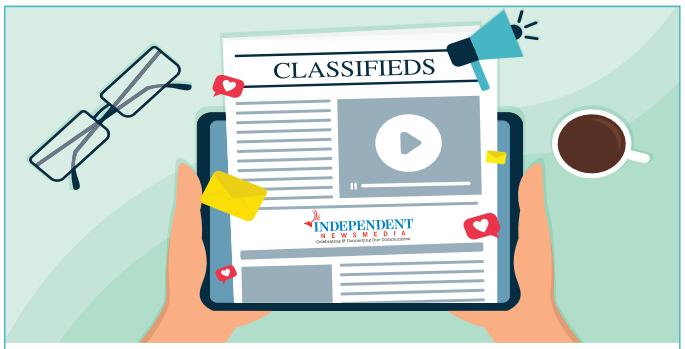
NEVER DRAIN YOUR POOL!
ROpools.com
MOBILE REVERSE OSMOSIS
*Water conservation
*Lower calcium hardness and CYA
*Pool equipment longevity
Quotes/scheduling

## Roofing

FIRST RESPONSE ROOFING
Licensed · Bonded · Insured
480.924.4444
FirstResponseRoofingAZ.com
FINANCING AVAILABLE | MILITARY DISCOUNTS
ROC 337526
SCAN HERE

SELL IT NOW
PLACE AN AD
623-972-6101

SELL IT NOW
PLACE AN AD
623-972-6101




Local Deals!
Get the best of both worlds, in print and online, all in your local newspaper!
To Place a Classified Ad
Call 623-972-6101, Email iniclassads@iniusa.org or visit iniusa.org/classifieds

SELL IT NOW
PLACE AN AD
623-972-6101




SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE
Search our classifieds for all your business & professional service needs! Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the
INDEPENDENT!
iniusa.org/classifieds



REACH RELIABLE TALENT
HIRING SUCCESS!
Hiring today can feel like a revolving door—especially with many job seekers prioritizing short-term perks over long-term commitment. If you're looking for employees who value consistency, reliability, and community, our readers are exactly who you want to reach.
Advertising in our trusted publications puts your employment opportunities in front of motivated individuals who are looking to build lasting careers—not just chase the next offer.
Promote your employment opportunities where they'll make an impact—right here in your local newspaper.
Email: Azads@iniusa.org
QUEEN CREEK INDEPENDENT

# COOLING HEATING PLUMBING

YOUR HOME COMFORT SPECIALIST FOR ALL SEASONS

## WINTER TUNE UP SPECIALS




**NO INTEREST PAYMENTS**
for 6 Months on New Installations!
Call for details. On approved credit. Must be installed by 12/31/2025.

TOYS FOR TOTS
Donate a New Toy
($20+ value)
and get a $69 Tune-up
FREE!

## HVAC SYSTEM TUNE-UP

$39

Benefits of AC/Heating System Tune Up;
- Extends Lifespan of the System
- Improves Energy Efficiency
- Prevents Expensive Repairs

Disclaimer. Some Restrictions may apply. Please mention this coupon when scheduling service. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Limited time only.




**$49** ANY DRAIN UNCLOG OR TANK WATER HEATER FLUSH

**$1000 OFF** NEW SYSTEM INSTALLATION
Please mention this coupon when scheduling free estimate. Limited Time Only

**FREE**
Second Opinion on Major HVAC or Plumbing Repairs or Replacement
Not sure about the quote from the other guys? Give us a call and we'll give you a FREE second opinion. Must present this ad when scheduling.

Ask us about our FREE MAINTENANCE for LIFE program for active military & veterans.
Some conditions may apply, inquire for more details.

**$599** REG PRICE $1,299
DUCT CLEANING
Up to 10 vents and 1 return.
New customers only.

WESTERN STATES
AC • HEAT • PLUMBING • INDOOR AIR QUALITY

4.9 Stars on Google

PLUMBING ROC 321722 HVAC ROC 349214

Free estimates Valleywide

**(602) 517-0375**

www.westernstateshomeservices.com

24-HOUR SERVICE • MAINTENANCE INSTALLATION

12 months • No payment • no interest

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ RATING