



NEW STORES

OPIOIDS

Arrowhead rolls with the changes

Work continues on Asian market-themed Mosaic project

By Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It may look like a concerted effort borne of a board room mission statement, but the new look of Arrowhead Towne Center in Glendale is more of a gradual evolution of a mall in response to customer demand.

As a Valley indoor mall more than 30 years old, it's nice to have demand to begin with. The Macerich shopping center just

• See **Changes** on page 5



Staff of the new Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen work on a busy lunch shift May 19, one day after the fast food chicken staple opened inside Arrowhead Towne Center in Glendale. (Independent Newsmedia/Richard Smith)

City plans to expand risk reduction program

By Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Glendale plans to expand its community risk reduction program for at least a two years, using \$500,000 in opioid settlement funds.

This funding is not allocated to other city programs. Glendale Fire Department and Community Services leaders presented the pilot program to the Glendale City Council at its May 12 workshop.

Adding two positions for two years and providing two additional vehicles will expand in-field responses from five to seven days and allow the city to take on additional social work interns.

“Our intention with this expansion is the success of it — because we’ve already seen indications of how successful it is — is to continue for years to come,” said Trilese DiLeo, a public services grants

• See **Risk** on page 14

THE FOUNDRY
ARROWHEAD RANCH



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Compass International Holdings Names Greg Hague Director of Home Sale Strategy

Founder of 72SOLD will provide voluntary, no-cost strategy training to more than 300,000 agents across the company's portfolio of brands

New York, NY – April 23, 2026 – Compass International Holdings, a global real estate services company, announced that Greg Hague, founder of 72SOLD and one of the most credentialed and experienced home sale strategists, has been appointed Director of Home Sale Strategy. Hague brings more than 50 years of experience to the role, with a career spanning brokerage, law, and real estate innovation. His work is grounded in the idea that the market is not a fixed constraint but a dynamic environment in which skilled real estate professionals can influence outcomes through strategy, positioning, and execution.

“My passion has always been helping real estate professionals unlock what’s possible for the clients they serve,” said Hague. “It’s about mastering how to position, market, show, and negotiate homes in ways that drive better results. When agents have access to the right strategies and the freedom to use them, the impact for sellers can be significant. I’m excited to share that with agents across this incredible network.”

Hague’s approach is designed to complement the company’s listing marketing strategies, giving agents additional tools around home positioning, buyer demand creation, showing strategy, and negotiation. Agents can adopt and adapt these strategies as they see fit, with the goal of delivering stronger outcomes for sellers.

“Greg and I share a belief that the future of this industry is one where agents are empowered to lead, and sellers have more choice in how their homes are marketed and sold,” said Robert Reffkin, Chairman and CEO of Compass International Holdings. “The best outcomes happen when the professional closest to the client has the flexibility and tools to act in their client’s best interest. Greg has spent his career building strategies that do exactly that, and we’re excited to make that expertise available to every agent across our network.”

Hague’s training will be available to all agents across Compass International Holdings’ brands at no cost, with participation entirely optional. Agents maintain full discretion over how and whether to incorporate these strategies into their business.

About 72SOLD

Founded in Scottsdale, Arizona, 72SOLD is a home-selling strategy consulting and training company operating across major U.S. markets. Inc. 5000 ranked it #211 among America’s top 250 fastest-growing private companies and the number one fastest-growing real estate company in the Southwest. The company has been recognized as one of the Most Admired Companies in Arizona. Seven independent studies over five years have documented higher seller net proceeds from agents trained on 72SOLD’s methods. Learn more at 72SOLD.com.

About Greg Hague

Greg Hague is one of the most credentialed and experienced home sale strategists in the country. A licensed real estate attorney who earned the top score on the Arizona bar exam,



Greg Hague

he is a 50-year real estate professional who made a deliberate choice early in his career: that the real estate business needed better thinking more than it needed another lawyer.

He began selling homes in the 1970s at his father’s Cincinnati real estate firm and never looked back. Over the decades that followed, he has personally listed and sold thousands of homes, and has trained agents across the country who have collectively effected the sale of tens of thousands more. Realtor Magazine ranked him among the Top 20 home-selling agents in the United States.

Hague founded 72SOLD, a home sale strategy consulting and training company that Inc. 5000 ranked #211 among America’s top 250 fastest-growing privately held firms and the number one fastest-growing real estate company in the Southwest. 72SOLD has been recognized as one of the Most Admired Companies in Arizona.

Seven independent studies over five years have documented higher net proceeds for sellers represented by agents trained on Hague’s methods. The most recent, a 2025 study of 11,618 Phoenix Metro MLS transac-

tions, showed a 5.8% higher median sale price compared to other homes sold in the same market.

Hague has built a fully integrated infrastructure supporting agent training and seller results, including a proprietary CRM, an in-house advertising agency, a buyer lead generation platform, an appointment-setting center, and an AI partnership with PolyAI.

About Compass International Holdings

Compass, Inc. (“Compass International Holdings”, “CIH” or the “Company”) (NYSE: COMP) is a global real estate services company with a presence in every major U.S. city and approximately 120 countries and territories. Compass International Holdings serves millions of buyers and sellers through a portfolio of some of the most recognized and iconic brands: @properties, Better Homes and Gardens® Real Estate, CENTURY 21®, Christie’s International Real Estate, Coldwell Banker®, Compass, Corcoran®, ERA®, and Sotheby’s International Realty®. Every day, we empower a global network of 300,000 real estate professionals and affiliate broker-owners to grow their businesses and deliver exceptional service to consumers.

The Company empowers real estate professionals to streamline operations and seamlessly guide clients through every phase of residential and commercial transactions, leveraging powerful tools, including its modern technology platform. Compass International Holdings brings together integrated services, including brokerage, franchise, mortgage, title, insurance, escrow, and relocation.



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CELEBRATION

Juneteenth Business Resource Expo comes to Glendale

The Kickoff to Juneteenth Community Resource Expo, presented by the Black Community Outreach Initiative, connects residents with local services.

The public is invited to attend the free expo, a one-stop event designed to connect individuals and families with essential services, programs, and support organizations.

The event takes place from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday June 6 at Arizona Christian University, 1 W. Firestorm Way, Glendale.

Attendees should enter the campus via 57th Avenue and Greenway Road and look for signs pointing to BLDG #3200/Dining Room Commons.

This expo will bring together a wide range of local nonprofits,



Glendale resident Rev. Marcia Garland, a primary organizer of the June 8, 2024 resource expo celebrating Juneteenth says farewell and thanks to the crowd at the end of the event at the Glendale Adult Center. This year's expo will be June 6. (Independent Newsmedia/Richard Smith)

government agencies, and service providers offering information and

assistance in areas such as:

- ♦ Healthcare

- ♦ Law
- ♦ Employment
- ♦ Insurance
- ♦ Veterinary services
- ♦ Children's education
- ♦ Tax preparation
- ♦ Family support services

Attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from community organizations.

Free health screenings and wellness resources such as blood typing, cholesterol testing, safe sex supplies and more will be offered.

Veterans, seniors and people with disabilities are welcome.

The expo offers an opportunity to learn and receive guidance across more than 35 related categories. For information, call 1-855-208-7875.

A smiling elderly woman with short white hair, wearing a white jacket over a red shirt, is leaning over a pool table and holding a pool cue. The background is slightly blurred, showing a social setting with other people and drinks.

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Advertising
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Press releases
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Opinions with Civility
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Staff

Richard Smith, Steve Stockmar
Reporters
Ben Daniels, Frank Dias, Greg Garcia, Ann Kampmeyer, Debbie Kelly, Lisa Norman, Makenna Sinatra
Advertising Consultants
Patrick O'Grady
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Erik Maurer, Mona Lisa Navarrette, Erica Odello, Chris Pitts, Chris Williams
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Changes

• From page 1

unveiled some new stores and more is on the way.

Since COVID-19 restrictions lifted, Arrowhead brought in some big name jewelry and lifestyle brand names, revamped its restaurants near the entrance and at the food court, moved — or is about to move — enduring retail favorites to bigger brighter spaces and introduced stores with a decided Asian flavor.

"We are always focused on curating the right mix of retailers and experiences that meet our shoppers' needs and drive traffic to the center. The arrival of new stores aligns with the center's natural evolution and also reflects the Northwest Valley's recent and continued growth," stated Gabby Ochoa, general manager of Arrowhead, in an email. "Arrowhead Towne Center is capturing and thriving on the retail demand this surge is driving."

Mosaic will turbo charge Pacific Rim trend

Ironically. Macerich does not have anything to do with the mall's biggest and most Asian-inspired project. Construction is underway on Mosaic at Arrowhead Towne Center in the former site of the Sears department store and auto center.

Houston-based NewQuest bought the old Sears site for almost \$8.9 million in 2023 according to Maricopa County records.

A 40,000-square-foot 99 Ranch Market grocery store will anchor the project on the ground floor. Japanese lifestyle

retailer TESO Life will be next door.

Upstairs, expect a Kinokuniya book store and a wide range of restaurants, including Pho 602, Bafang Dumpling, Fat Milk, ROYCE Chocolate, Lady M, Swirl Crepe and The Alley. Other name-brand restaurants like Chun Shui Tang and SomiSomi are proposed in NewQuest's brochure but not included on the signage for Mosaic inside the mall.

Mosaic at Arrowhead is expected to open later this year, though specific details are scarce. NewQuest did not respond to several requests for an interview.

"We are excited to see the development come to life and look forward to our continued partnership," Ochoa stated.

The NewQuest brochure does not include a specific date but includes some interesting information about Arrowhead. According to the brochure, Arrowhead is the fourth most visited mall in Arizona, with 8.9 million visits in a recent 12-month period.

Round1, a Japanese-based bowling and arcade destination, opened on two levels in the mall's southeast corner in December 2023. It includes the Spo-cha concept with indoor sports and a playground.

Miniso, KPop Station, TOKYO Japanese Lifestyle and PopMart all opened in the mall since 2023.

"With Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company and other developments in the area, brands are identifying the area as the place to be. Arrowhead Towne Center continues to strive and takes pride in our

• See **Names** on page 14



A video board featuring Sizzle Korean Barbecue is prominent from the escalator to the lower level at Arrowhead Towne Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Richard Smith)

ON YOURVALLEY.NET**Council member Conchas announces 2028 mayoral bid**

On May 11, Glendale council member Lupe Conchas announced his intent to run for mayor in the 2028 election.

He described his candidacy as an “every day, people-powered movement for transparency, accountability, affordability and ethical leadership.”

Conchas is in his first term as council member for the Cactus District, which began in December 2024.

Read online: <https://tinyurl.com/3c63tajm>

City starts process to annex massive data center project

Glendale is working through the process of annexing a proposed data center and natural gas electric generation facility in the West Valley that comes with controversy, community opposition and questions about its compatibility with Luke Air Force Base.

City officials began the potential annexation process April 28 for the \$36 billion Project Bacara, projected to be on 160 acres north of Olive Avenue and a half mile west of Litchfield Road.

Read online: <https://tinyurl.com/38jku25j>

Glendale follows trend of large cities' slow growth

New U.S. Census estimates have the city's population now at 260,572, which is an increase of 1.5% from 2024.

Read online: <https://tinyurl.com/2jahr67f>

ELECTION 2026

Glendale council candidates respond to questions

Compiled by Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Four Glendale City Council candidates are running for election in two districts in the July 21 primary election.

The Independent asked the candidates biographical information and platform-related questions. Three responded.

Here are some of their answers. For full responses, visit the Glendale Independent page online:

Barrel District

Name: Lisa Baker

Age: 57

Years living in Glendale: 33 years total

Employment: Licensed Realtor/Global Real Estate Advisor

Why did you choose to run? I am running to put the people's priorities first by making sure Barrel District residents are heard and their priorities are addressed by the city council.

Why do you think you are the best candidate for the position? I would propose the policy or solution that Barrel District residents, I, and other stakeholders developed. My experiences with the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, the GFWC Glendale Woman's Club and the Glendale Community Development Advisory Committee taught me that the best solutions are created when everyone who wants a seat at the table gets one. This community minded approach brings people together and creates compre-



Baker

hensive and sustainable solutions. If elected, I will create more opportunities for stakeholders to get involved in city government.

Name: Michael Calles

Age: 58

Years living in Glendale: 29 years total

Employment: City of Phoenix Police Department - Civilian Investigator

Why did you choose to run? I'm running for Glendale City Council because I've spent my adult life serving the public and standing up for others. I believe the Barrel District deserves leadership that listens, brings fresh ideas, and puts residents first. Most importantly, I want the voices of the people to be heard. I believe city government works best



Calles

when residents have a seat at the table and know their concerns matter. Growth should strengthen our community — not change who we are.

Why do you think you are the best candidate for the position? I have spent my entire adult life serving the public and standing up for others. As a retired Phoenix Police officer, much of my career was dedicated to protecting vulnerable people, helping families in crisis and keeping communities safe. I have focused on listening to residents by canvassing neighborhoods, hosting town halls, and meeting directly with community members and local business owners. I support strengthening public safety, improving community polic-

ing, bringing back block watch programs, and ensuring our police and fire departments have the resources they need. As Glendale grows, development must remain thoughtful and balanced while preserving the historic charm of downtown and the Barrel District. Most importantly, I will lead with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to ensuring residents always have a voice at City Hall.

Ocotillo District

Name: Rory Goreé

Age: 61

Years living in Glendale: 32 years

Employment: I've worked as a consultant with LSI Consulting for many years, and prior to that I ran my own consulting business for more than 30 years. When I decided to run for office, I also chose to step into semi-retirement.

Why did you choose to run? I love this city, my neighbors, our small businesses, and the community that makes Glendale what it is. But I've also seen firsthand what happens when leadership stops listening to the people who live here. Too many families feel overlooked, too many neighborhoods have gone without the investment and improvements they deserve, and right now, we have a councilmember who's more focused on sending resources outside the district than investing in the people right here at home, and that's not right. I'm running to bring leadership that is rooted in the community.



Goreé

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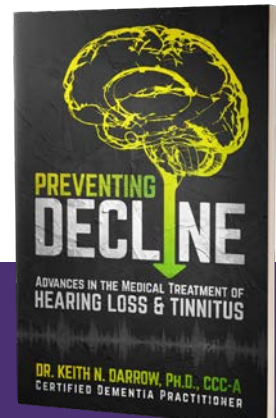
- Difficulty hearing in background noise
- Frequently asking others to repeat themselves
- Turning the TV volume up higher than others prefer
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– Jim Polito

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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

NOW OPEN

1 VEG ER for Pets, recently announced the opening of VEG ER for Pets in Arrowhead at 7720 West Bell Road, Suite B. The ribbon cutting was May 21. VEG ER for Pets will provide families in Arrowhead and neighboring cities with emergency veterinary care including surgeries, ultrasounds, X-rays and more. The hospital is located just outside Arrowhead Towne Center, less than a mile northeast of the Peoria Sports Complex. This is the fourth hospital in Arizona

2 On May 18, Blue Corn Cafe & Bakery doubled up in downtown Glendale. The Glendale Chamber of Commerce led a ribbon cutting for **Blue Corn Express** at 5746 W. Glendale Ave., which is around the corner from the original site. The

new location has extended hours and a grab and go concept for its renowned pastries and coffees.

3 Artistry by Michaela recently opened in Suite S of the Simply You Salon Suites at 5930 W. Greenway Road, Suite 18.

4 This spring, **Elite Home Care Services** opened day program for adults and children receiving services with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Private pay also is available. The site is at 5734 W. Peoria Ave. Programs for adults are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open weekend availability is from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for respite camps.

5 Paquimex, a new fast-casual restaurant from the people behind



BLUE CORN EXPRESS

Tortas Paquimé, opened in Glendale this spring at 5149 W. Olive Ave. It features fast-casual versions of soulful dishes from restaurateur Omar Alvarez, foods from his home town of Casa Grandes, Chihuahua.

6 Coquette Quinceanera Boutique opened recently at 6616 W. Camelback Road.

OPEN SOON

7 Arizona Hair Co., which has 13 locations across the Valley, is in the process of moving its Glendale/Phoenix location on 51st Avenue and Cactus Road to Glendale on 74th Ave and Bell Road. Formerly the site of Floyd's 99 Barbershop, the address is 7410 W. Bell Road, Suite 310. Arizona Hair signed the lease in early May, and plans to open around August.

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LETTERS

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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.

Schools should focus on retaining knowledge, not fast answers

Education should prioritize retaining knowledge, not just accessing it with technology

Remember when you asked a teacher how to pronounce a word or what it meant, and the answer was, "go look it up?" At the time, it felt like extra work. Looking back, it was one of the most effective learning tools we had.



Everett

I still remember many of the words I searched for in a dictionary. Why? Because I had to put in the effort to find them. That process created retention. It made the knowledge stick.

Today, students have access to instant answers through technology. With a quick search, they can find definitions, solutions and even complete assignments. While technology has its place and offers valuable tools, it has also shifted the focus from learning to simply finding answers.

There is a real difference between knowing something and knowing how to look it up.

Our education system should prioritize helping students retain knowledge, not just access it. When students internalize what they learn, they are better equipped to think critically, solve problems independently and communicate effectively. These are the skills that carry them beyond the classroom and into real life.

This isn't about going backward or eliminating technology. It's about restoring balance. Technology should support education, not

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.

replace the learning process itself.

The methods used in the 1970s and 1980s emphasized repetition, effort and engagement. Students didn't just complete assignments, they absorbed the material. That foundation built confident, capable thinkers.

As I run for school board, I believe it's time to revisit what worked. Our goal should be to develop students who don't just rely on devices for answers but have the knowledge and confidence to think for themselves.

Real learning lasts a lifetime.

Lisa Everett
SURPRISE

What is an American and other questions to consider

I take exception with Jeff Hostetler's recent opinion on birth-right citizenship. He incorrectly offers that "the Constitution plainly states that anyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, period."

First, the Executive, as president, is charged in Article II of the Constitution with preserving, protecting and defending the U.S. Constitution, which includes the 14th Amendment. Enforcing the law is what we hire the Executive to do.

The text of the 14th Amendment contains two requirements for acquiring automatic citizenship by birth: first, one must be born in

Speak Up

Read what local residents are saying about hot-button issues:

Below is a list of comments from people on social media, including the announcement of Lupe Conchas' 2028 mayoral bid, high gas prices and Peoria Unified School district governing board controversy.

Glendale council member Conchas announces 2028 mayoral bid

As soon as I read his qualifications I saw "more than a decade of advocacy in anti-hunger and poverty reduction efforts", which means conservatives aren't having any of that, he might actually HELP middle class people — **Jar-rad L.**

No. Absolutely not. — **Louis R.**

I'm Phoenix resident, but absolutely support Lupe. I've had interactions with him before and was super impressed. If you're interested in voting for someone who is actively working to improve the community and his neighbor's lives instead of using power to make money for himself and big business, check him out. He's often at community events talking with people about concerns and needs they have. — **Alexandria O'Mara**

Glendale gas prices jump while Valley prices see slight drop

\$4.80 a gallon is low prices now?

♦ See **Letters** on page 11

♦ See **Speak** on page 11

Goreé

• From page 6

I'm a former small business owner of Espresso Garden, which had been in downtown Glendale. I've seen how the city has let both the residents and the businesses of the Ocotillo District down, but I also see so much of our

potential.

Why do you think you are the best candidate for the position? For more than 30 years I've worked as a consultant. That same approach is what I'll bring to the council — listening first, understanding the concerns of residents and working toward real solutions. When our City Council moved to tear down Velma

Teague Library, I organized a petition and collected signatures to stop it, helping change the council's decision. That experience showed me what's possible when residents' voices are heard. Because of that effort, many residents encouraged me to run for council. They were concerned that our district has too often been overlooked for investment

and funding priorities, and that we need an independent voice who will advocate directly. In the past year, I've spent countless hours walking our neighborhoods, speaking directly with residents, listening to their concern, and understanding the importance of balancing responsible growth with quality of life.

Speak

• From page 10

We are being bamboozled. — **Cris H.**

Peoria Unified does about face, prepares to choose alternative as interim superintendent

Wow an independent investigation into this board and the PUSD needs to take place. Definitely some sketchy shenanigans going on. — **Michelle Edelman Eberhart**

Letters

• From page 10

the United States and, second, be subject to its jurisdiction.

The amendment's interpretation of "subject to its jurisdiction" means total, exclusive allegiance and lawful presence, not merely location. The current political misconception of citizenship arose in the mid-20th century.

The U.S. Supreme Court first confirmed the understanding of jurisdiction in its 1873 Slaughter-

house Cases and again in Elk v. Wilkins (1884).

Proponents of "birthright citizenship" incorrectly point to US v. Wong Kim Ark (1898) as they thought it dealt with illegal immigrant parents, but that case involved lawfully U.S. parents present and domiciled; not parents here illegally. In fact, SCOTUS has never held that children of illegal immigrants are entitled to citizenship simply because they were born in the U.S.

Think of it this way: If a Brit-

ish citizen visits the U.S., the law requires them to drive on the right side of the road; in doing so, the Brit doesn't owe allegiance to the U.S. and is not subject to our army draft or prosecuted for treason.

The real questions for the 14th is a moral debate on this 250th anniversary year are: what is an American? Who is America for? What is the purpose of immigration?

Mike Kopic
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EDUCATION



Deer Valley Unified School District Governing Board members Paul Carver, left, and Karen Pack, and DVUSD Superintendent Curtis Finch, look from the dais during a governing board meeting Oct. 14, 2025, in Phoenix. (Independent Newsmedia/Steve Stockmar)

DVUSD sets final date for superintendent's tenure

Disagreements over communication process emerge

By Steve Stockmar
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The date for Dr. Curtis Finch's tenure as Deer Valley Unified

School District superintendent to end appears to be settled, although arriving there led to new concerns about governing board communication.

The board on May 12 voted unanimously to accept June 30, 2027, as Finch's last day after what will at that time mark a decade of

• See **Finch** on page 13

Finch

• From page 12

his leadership in the district.

Finch on March 10 surprised district observers and even employees when at the very end of the governing board meeting he announced he would be stepping down. The meeting was adjourned moments later.

Since that time board members talked about the situation in executive session — a session that Finch could have attended but voluntarily decided not to, thinking “it’d be better for the board to discuss without me present,” he said at the May 12 meeting.

Finch’s contract originally called for a tenure through June 30, 2028, so the board essentially voted to rework the contract with an expiration date instead of June 30, 2027.

In addition to those executive session discussions, board president Paul Carver on May 12 said from the dais that he had discussed the issue with district attorneys.

The three fellow board members present — Kim Fisher, Dr. Karen Pack Stephanie Simacek — each took issue with being left out of those discussions.

Board member Steve Bottfeld was not present.

“Would it be possible, even if on Zoom, for the whole board to hear your conversation with the attorney, or whoever’s present, including everybody in the conversation?” Pack asked Carver. “Because we can all learn from the legalese of an attorney. That would resolve the problem of some people feeling like they’re not being informed.”

Carver replied, “That would be an executive session, and according to board policy — it happened on a Zoom call — but we can call the attorney in on a specific topic and ask those questions.”

It was the notion that fellow

IF YOU GO

What: DVUSD governing board meetings this month

When: 7 p.m. June 9 & 23

Where: DVUSD Governing Board Room, 20402 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix

Live Stream: youtube.com/@dvusdboard/streams

board members weren’t on the original conversation with the attorney in the first place that Simacek pressed further.

“I’m wondering why wouldn’t we do that as a board?” Simacek said. “It feels like we’re here and we don’t know what’s been discussed and we’re told, well, it has been discussed but what was discussed? And we’ll never know.”

Carver noted that as soon as Finch submitted his resignation letter in March, he researched options with the district’s attorney.

“The sentiment of the board was we don’t want to have extra meetings than what we already have. Let’s find a way to try to get things done,” Carver said. “And when we hold our leadership elections, one of the things that the president is allowed to do is to ask those questions on behalf of the board and then report back to you guys. So (I’m) definitely not trying to run everything.”

Finch could step down at any time but considered that a year’s notice would serve the district in finding a replacement.

“It’s probably in the best interest of Deer Valley to at least go one more lap, and if you want to make a decision in November on internal (candidates) that’s a possibility before you do a national (search),” Finch said. “Most of the search firms will tell you November’s kind of the window.”

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Names

• From page 5

ability to meet the current and evolving consumer purchasing trends,” Ochoa stated.

Big names move in, get bigger stores

James Avery Artisan Jewelry opened in June 2025. This June, construction starts on the next premium jeweler to join Arrowhead’s roster — gorjana.

The jewelry brand — launched by ASU graduates Gorjana Reidel and Jason Griffin Reidel — will make its West Valley debut at the mall this fall.

Other mall mainstays proven to be a draw for shoppers looking for tactile experiences traded up. Hot Topic moved into a lower level space that doubled its size in August 2025.

Victoria’s Secret is reopening in its remodeled space in the center of the lower level on May 30.

Later this summer American Eagle reopens in a larger store right next to the Mosaic project.



American Eagle will reopen this summer in a larger storefront on the lower level of Arrowhead Towne Center next to the Mosaic at Arrowhead development. (Independent Newsmedia/Richard Smith)

“These renovations and expansions reflect the notion that our long-term tenants not only recognize the value of reinvesting in premium retail space but

also are willing to evolve with the ever-changing retail landscape,” Ochoa stated. “Our shoppers, and specifically Gen Z, are omni-channel shoppers

and appreciate in-person, experience-forward retail.”

Aerie is adding of a dedicated OFFLINE by Aerie store. Aerie is open in a temporary space through the summer and then moves into a larger location this fall, with OFFLINE then moving into the smaller storefront.

Earthbound Trading Company opened earlier in May. Fabletics opened in 2025.

While the last two holiday seasons saw the mall turn over its sit down restaurants at the main entrance — Sizzle Korean Barbecue in 2024 and Pickleman’s Gourmet Cafe in 2025 — the food court just added a chain more known for its drive-thru business.

Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen opened May 18 at the corner spot facing the entrance.

“Securing new and upgraded dining options in and around the food court has been one of the most critical pieces of Arrowhead Towne Center’s repositioning strategy. We want shoppers to be able to shop and dine all at the same place,” Ochoa stated.

Risk

• From page 1

administrator. “In order to have the capacity to expand this to seven days a week those vehicles would be absolutely necessary to ensure that all community risk reduction specials have the opportunity to go out to those calls.”

Opioids are the driver of these emergency calls and risk reduction support services. Glendale Fire has responded to an average of 590 overdoses per year since 2021, peaking at 658 in 2022.

About 2/3 of those non-fatal overdoses in Glendale in 2025 involved opioid use, DiLeo said.

In the United States that number of overdoses has declined but in Glendale the total number of re-

sponses to overdoses are relatively stagnant, she said.

“Opioid overdoses are now as common as cardiac incidents in the city of Glendale,” DiLeo said.

Glendale Fire plans to add two temporary contract positions — a crisis intervention specialist for the field and a community risk reduction specialist. The department also wants to purchase two vehicles, a truck and a SUV, for this initiative.

Mayor Jerry Weiers asked if the city has any available vehicles, or if Glendale can rent vehicles — since this not a guaranteed long-term program expansion.

“We’re not aware on any extra vehicles right now, especially within the fire department,” Deputy Fire Chief Mike O’Neill said. “That’s

why we built them into the price.”

Glendale Fire Chief Ryan Freeburg said the department can pivot to a different use for the vehicles if the expansion ends after two years.

A crisis response representative responds as a team with firefighters from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We handle the medical emergency and then we follow them up, either on scene with family members or at the hospital with our crisis team after they’re stabilized. We try to get them connected with the appropriate resources or the outreach programs. That way they’re not continuing to be repeat users of the system,” O’Neill said.

An education specialist will be in support but not on scenes.

Crisis intervention specialists follow up on case management when

not out on calls.

“If we can get to them before 9-1-1 is their solution, that’s what we’re trying to do,” Freeburg said.

The risk reduction program is now housed at Northwestern University in north Glendale.

From 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., a crisis intervention specialist stays behind with family at the site of an overdose call. After hours it is traditional paramedic response.

“What we see very often is our crew gets this information into our CR team in the morning and we pull all reports of what type of calls we have the night before. These turn over to our crisis intervention specialists that then can reach back to that family for ongoing care and services after the call,” Freeburg said.

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PUSD



Kachina Elementary School May 6 celebrated more than 50 years of service to the Glendale and Peoria communities. It is under utilized and is being forced to close to due declining enrollment and rising costs, among other factors. (Courtesy Peoria Unified School District)

Kachina Elementary in Glendale ends history with celebration

By Philip Haldiman
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Kachina Elementary School is closing its doors after more than 50 years of service to the Glendale and Peoria communities.

As an under-utilized facility in the Peoria Unified School District, the school is being forced to close at the end of the school year.

Principal Natalie Steele said that

because the school has such a rich history, alumni, former staff, families and community members were invited to celebrate decades of serving students and their communities.

On May 6, the school celebrated all those years of learning, growth and impact, bringing together generations of Kachina Cougars to reflect on the school's legacy and reunite the rela-

• See **Kachina** on page 17

Kachina

• From page 16

tionships that shaped its history.

“It was incredible to see so many people who have loved this campus for more than 50 years come back and celebrate the legacy of Kachina Elementary School. I am so thankful for my time and Kachina and how it has helped me to grow as an individual and a leader; it is my hope our families, alumni and community remember it for the same reason,” Steele said.

Peoria Unified residents this November will vote on a ballot item requesting the authorization to sell, lease or exchange Kachina Elementary School and the district administration center.

The school closure came about due to declining enrollment, an increasingly under-utilized facility, and rising costs, among other factors.

Legacy schools honor Glendale campus teacher

Legacy Traditional Schools, a public charter school network in Arizona, recently announced John Saavedra, a sixth grade writing and junior high creative writing teacher at Legacy Traditional School—Glendale, as its 2025-26 Arizona Teacher of the Year.

Saavedra was recognized by his peers and colleagues for creating a classroom where students are challenged, inspired, and empowered to exceed expectations, which includes implementing a student TED Talk program and leading a fifth grade writing mentor program, where middle school students support fifth grade students in their writing.

“John Saavedra is a wonderful example of the impact our teachers make on the lives of our students,”

ON YOURVALLEY.NET

stated Mia Vega, Legacy Traditional Schools Superintendent.

Legacy Traditional School—Glendale is at 13901 N. 67th Ave.

Local students graduate, make dean's list

The following students from Glendale recently earned these honors in college:

• Rebecca Ong was among more than 590 students who graduated from Bob Jones University on May 8. Ong graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in music education.

• Southern New Hampshire University announced the following Glendale residents made the spring semester dean's list: Maliq Williams, Heather Britt, Robert Noyes, Zaire Sykes and Veronica Malewski of Glendale.

• Sunsarrah Henderson earned a spot on the Emerson College dean's list for fall 2025. Henderson is majoring in media arts production.

PUSD picks new principal for Glendale school

At its meeting April 23, the Peoria Unified Governing Board voted unanimously to appointed administrators beginning July 1, including a new principal for one school in Glendale.

Brianne Woods will be the new principal of Marshall Ranch Elementary School.

Woods is now the assistant principal at Lake Pleasant Elementary School in Peoria.

Michelle Kulinec the current principal at Sahuaro Ranch Elementary School in Glendale will be the new principal of Lake Pleasant Elementary School.

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IN BRIEF**Foothills pool open, swim lessons start soon**

The two city of Glendale pools opened for the summer during Memorial Day weekend and will remain available for open swim from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday until July 27.

Classes for kids are available in the mornings at Foothills Recreation & Aquatic Center, 5600 W. Union Hills Drive. Classes start June 2 unless otherwise noted and include:

- Volunteer junior lifeguard program — starting June 30.
- Pre-dive lessons for ages 6-12.
- Beginning dive lessons for ages 6-12.
- Swim lessons parent/child for ages 6 months to 4 years.
- Swim lessons ages 3-5.
- Swim lessons ages 6-8.
- Swim lessons ages 9-12
- Swim lessons ages 12 and up, starting June 9.

Northwest Christian boys volleyball repeat as 3A champs

In the fresh, two year history of the 3A boys volleyball conference, Northwest Christian stamped its name on top after defending its championship over ALA West Foothills with a 3-1 (21-25, 25-18, 25-18, 25-15) win on May 16.

And for head coach Chuck Hunter and his program, it's the fourth consecutive title game appearance and second straight title — both over ALA West Foothills.

"I think it means a lot," Hunter said. ".....These last two coming in, like, we're not favored to win... they're better physically than we are ... and yet we find a way to do it. I think it's that mental toughness that our guys bring."

Hurdler, others help Mountain Lions shine

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It's tough for every Division 1 track and field program to stay in the lime-light in Arizona.

Mountain Ridge athletes did their part this year, sending as large and as impactful a contingent to the 2026 Open Championships on May 15-16 as it had in recent years, especially on the boys side.

Highlighted by senior Sanel Eminovic's 300-meter hurdles state title, the Mountain Lion teams showed the crowd at Mesa Community College that their athletes can compete with the best in the state, across all divisions.

The Mountain Ridge boys placed eighth among 47 scoring teams with 31 team points. The girls were 18th with 10 points.

Eminovic's time of 37.24 seconds in the 300 hurdles final was a personal best and almost a full second faster than runner-up Ryan Patterson-Lopez of Deer Valley.

"Before the race I thought I'm not leaving today without a gold medal," Eminovic said.

Eminovic also was runner-up in the 110 hurdles earlier in the meet — only 0.32 seconds behind winner Jett Merrill of Ironwood Ridge.

He said he will run in the Great Southwest Track and Field Classic June 4-6 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Then, Eminovic plans to run for Bosnia and Herzegovina on its Under 20 team this summer.

His mother was born there and his father lived there before they moved to America.

"I went there last summer hoping to train. My dad found a coach and he runs a lot of the track stuff there," Eminovic said.

Collin Foley was sixth in the 1600

TRACK & FIELD

Mountain Ridge senior Sanel Eminovic competes in the 300 hurdles May 16 during the Open Track and Field Championships at Mesa Community College. Eminovic won this event and was a close second in the 110 hurdles. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)



Mountain Ridge senior Cameron Mailloux sends up a plume of sand in the triple jump. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

meters and placed 10th in the 3,200. He also led off the 4-by-800 meter relay, in which he and Amherst Parsons, Gage Mahn and Eric Reed nearly

took first place.

Crew Comish, the Red Mountain anchor and 1,600-meter state cham-

• See **Track** on page 20

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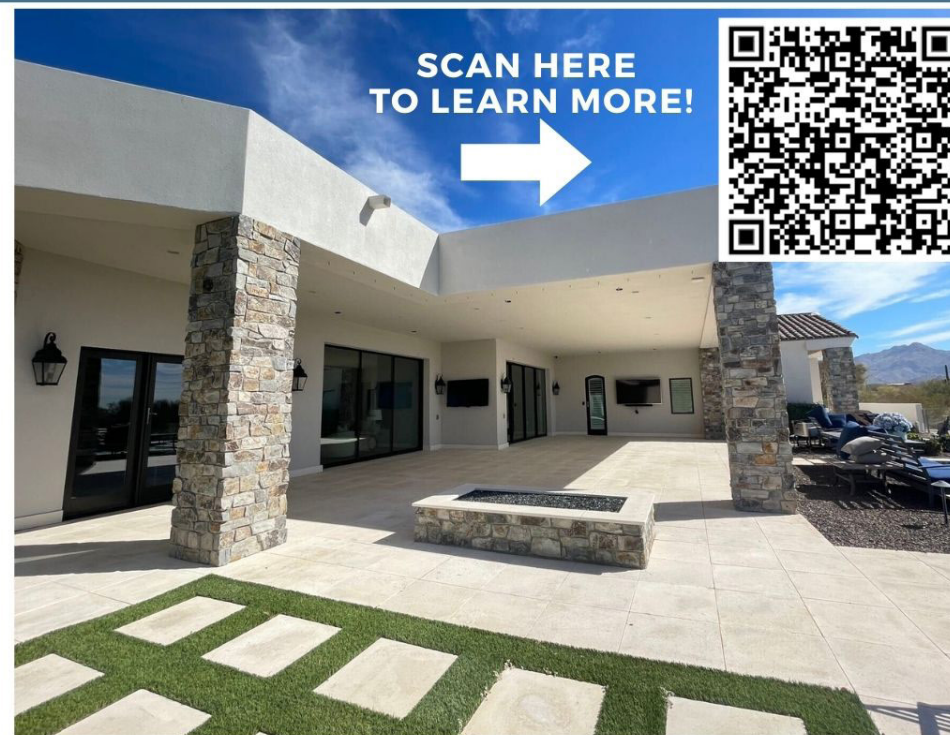
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Track

• From page 18

pion, chased down Reed and won by 0.54 seconds, giving the Mountain Ridge team a still-impressive second place in the 18-team relay.

Ethan Holley placed seventh in the javelin.

Foley, one of the seniors, said the program brought more MRHS athletes to the meet than in past seasons.

“We had more, for sure,” Foley said. “We had a great season, I think.”

Foley said he hoped to eclipse both his personal-best and the school record in the 3200, but he came up a few seconds slower than he would have liked — especially after keeping pace with the race’s top runners in the first few laps.

“Having just run the 4-by-800 a couple of hours before, I was probably more tired than I should have been,” Foley said.

On the girls side, MRHS senior Cameron Mailloux finished her career with a fifth-place finish in the triple jump. Her best jump was 37-feet, 4-inches.

Avery Luke, a junior, placed third in the shot put and was 11th in the discus.

The MRHS 4-by-800 relay team of Emma Langer, Kaydence Porter, Sydney McCracken and Sadie Jensen placed 12th, running its best time of the season.

Foley said he has hope the program can keep growing in the years ahead.

“We have an amazing track team,” Foley said. “It’s a deep squad that can really cover a lot of points.”

Richard Smith contributed to this story. Email Jason W. Brooks at jbrooks@iniusa.org. 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.



Junior Avery Luke winds up before releasing the discus. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)



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PREP SPORTS

Beach volleyball: Eagles win 5th straight team trophy

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

There were many points during Imani Huesca and Taylor Young's April 29 No. 4 match in the Division I state beach volleyball championships when a victory seemed doubtful.

After all, the pair of O'Connor sophomores did drop the first set to the Xavier Prep freshman-senior combination of Emery O'Connor and Leigh-ton Fig by a 21-11 score.

But, as has happened so many times over the past five years, an O'Connor team rallied and persevered, 21-19 and then a grueling 20-18 win in the third set.

Those wins gave the Eagles their fifth consecutive Division I beach volleyball state title.

Huesca and Young not only beat a pair with a senior in it and with some

height advantages, but also one that seemed like it might be too much for the Eagle sophomores, but the O'Connor team staved off several match points and used the crowd support at Casteel High School to hit enough winners and force enough mistakes to win.

Huesca served the final three points for the win.

"I try to zone in, and not hear anything," Huesca said regarding high-pressure moments. "With my partner (Young) being in her first year on varsity, I really wanted us to win."

Huesca said being successful in "a tough situation" in a postseason match against Queen Creek High last year, as a freshman, helped her pull through.

"I wasn't feeling that good, but I really wanted to pull through for my team and for our coaches," Huesca said.

O'Connor coach Jamey Spartz said Huesca had been ill this week, and at one point during the finals, vomited after the big win that seemed to give the Eagles momentum.

Huesca and Young played in the early part of the evening, at the same time as the No. 2 O'Connor pair of Logan Sutton and Alyssa Archiello, which finished first. The Eagles' lone loss of the evening came after Sutton and Archiello nearly staged a brilliant comeback of their own, losing to Xavier's Emma Robescu and Kylie Barr, 21-11, 15-21, 16-14.

O'Connor's No. 5 team of Miren-ah Martin and Keira Simmons, easily beat their opponents, 21-11, 21-14.

The No. 3 Eagles team of Nikolina Mimic and Sami Mondino, won even more handily, 21-7, 21-19, with their match clinching the 3-1 win.



O'Connor junior Logan Sutton reaches to block Xavier Prep senior Emma Robescu in the April 29 Division I team finals in Queen Creek. The O'Connor Eagles won their fifth consecutive Division I beach volleyball trophy by beating Xavier Prep, 3-1. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)



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BOOT OF CORTEZ



Garrett Hoyer, left, and Erik Hoyer stand next to the "Boot of Cortez" a 26.2-pound gold nugget up for auction in June. (For Independent Newsmedia/Jeffrey Noble)

Large gold nugget up for auction at Glendale store

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

EJ's Auction & Appraisal in Glendale has been selected to auction the historic "Boot of Cortez" gold nugget.

The auction is set for Friday, June 12 at 1 p.m. Arizona time both online and live at EJ's Auction & Appraisal for qualified bidders. Registration for bidding is open now through bootofcortez.com.

The "Boot of Cortez" is classified as the largest surviving natural gold nugget found in the Western Hemisphere. EJ's Auction & Appraisal arranged for the specimen to be independently weighed and analyzed in April using modern calibrated equipment.

The current measurement was confirmed using a third-party scale certified by the State of Arizona. The specimen also has undergone third-party X-ray fluorescence testing, verifying the material to be approximately 98% gold.

EJ's Auction & Appraisal is at 5880 W. Bell Road, on the northeast corner of Bell Road and 59th Avenue.

A prospector discovered "The Boot of Cortez" using a metal detector from Radio Shack while searching for gold in 1989 near Caborca, Mexico, about 70 miles south of the Arizona border and about 60 miles east of the Sea of Cortez in the Mexican state of Sonora.

This gold nugget is in the shape of a conquistador's boot. It is 383.10 troy ounces, or 26.2 pounds (11.9 kilograms).

The Boot of Cortez is 10 ¾ inches (27.3 cm) in height and 7 ¼ inches (18.4 cm) in width. It is maintained its original form.

Bidding registration is open through June 9. For details, visit bootofcortez.com, email concierge@ejsauction.com or call 623-878-2003. To view EJ's weekly online auctions, visit ejsauction.com.

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DATA DRIVEN



The Isabella apartment complex opened in 2024 on the corner of 67th Avenue and Greenway Road in Glendale. (Independent Newsmedia/Richard Smith)

Glendale apartments provide state's lowest rental rates

Phoenix metro rents show signs of cooling

By Matt Loeschman
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Arizona renters might finally be getting a breather.

A new Zumper analysis suggests apartment rents across the Phoenix area and the rest of the state are starting to drop in several spots, though high-end neighborhoods are still expensive.

Numbers

The newest Zumper Phoenix Metro Report puts the median statewide rent for a one-bedroom at \$1,228 for last month.

They looked at active listings to find the most expensive and cheapest markets, plus areas where prices are falling fastest.

If you want to live in Fountain Hills, you're going to pay for it. It's currently the priciest spot in the state for a one-bedroom, with me-

• See **Apartment**s on page 25

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Apartments

• From page 24

dian rents hitting \$1,980. Scottsdale is next at \$1,700, and Flagstaff is third at \$1,640.

At the other end, Glendale is the most affordable place on the list right now, with one-bedrooms going for a median of \$1,070. Bullhead City isn't far behind at \$1,080, and Casa Grande is third cheapest at \$1,110. commercial corridors, and attracting responsible economic development.

At the same time, residents value preserving the historic charm and neighborhood character of the Barrel District and Glendale's established communities.

Trend

What's interesting is how much prices have dropped through the past year. It looks like the era of non-stop, rapid rent hikes in Ar-

izona might finally be slowing down.

Fountain Hills saw the biggest drop over the last year, with rents down 10% from 2025. Goodyear followed with a 9.3% dip, and Glendale prices fell by 7.8% compared with last year.

There is a similar cooling effect month-to-month. Prescott had the biggest one-month drop at 6.2%. Tempe rents went down by 3.7%, and Flagstaff saw a 3.5% decrease from the month before.

Zumper pulled this data from listings that went live last month, grouping everything by city to determine the middle-of-the-road asking price for the region.

Statewide

Looking at the state as a whole, RentCafe puts the average monthly payment somewhere between \$1,575 and \$2,000.

Prices change depending on

where you are: studios go for about \$1,080, one-bedrooms average \$1,322, and two-bedrooms run around \$1,606.

If you really want to save money, Pinal County is still the budget-friendly choice, with monthly rents averaging around \$1,200.

HB 2682

Arizona is generally considered a "landlord-friendly" state, meaning there are no statewide rent control laws, offering flexibility for property owners.

But there is a bipartisan bill moving through the Arizona Legislature that would create a new \$5 million emergency rental assistance program for families facing short-term financial hardship.

Under Arizona House Bill 2682, the Arizona Department of Economic Security would provide eligible renters with up to two months of rental assistance, capped

at \$5,000, using state funding allocated for fiscal year 2027. The program is designed for households with children under 18 experiencing unexpected financial crises.

To qualify, tenants would need to demonstrate they can resume paying rent after receiving assistance, have lived in their rental unit for at least one year, and be no more than two months behind on payments.

Landlords who accept the aid would be barred from evicting tenants for nonpayment during the covered period.

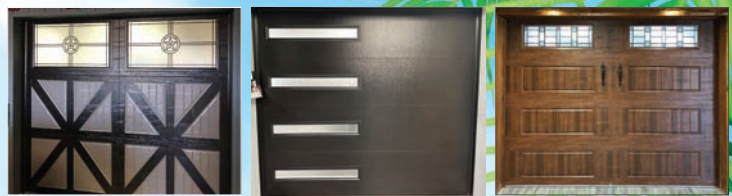
The proposal also requires DES to process applications within five business days to ensure rapid relief.

As of February 2026, the measure had advanced out of the House Commerce Committee on a 7-4 vote.

To become law, the bill still has to pass through the Arizona House and Senate.

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REDEVELOPMENT

Glendale cuts ribbon on new \$94M City Hall in June

By Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Glendale will celebrate its 116th birthday in its new home.

The city slated the ribbon cutting for its completely redeveloped City Hall on June 18, the date of its founding.

This \$94 million project to transform City Hall and the area around it began in late 2023.

“We wanted to make sure we captured the city’s birthday, which is June 18,” Deputy City Manager Thomas Adkins said during an April 28 City Council Workshop.

“That’s a Thursday, so in the morning we’re planning on the official ribbon cutting ceremony that will use both our council chambers, where it’s



Glendale city employees work on their first day back in the fully renovated City Hall May 18. The first floor features a one-stop shop for residents to pay bills and businesses to deal with planning and licensing. (Courtesy City of Glendale)

• See **City Hall** on page 28

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CITY DATA



(Independent Newsmedia/Steve Stockmar)

Glendale crime statistics drop, still relatively high

By Richard Smith
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Glendale's crime rate plummeted between 2023 and 2024, and more significantly than the decrease from 2022 to 2023, according to a combined analysis of CrimeGrade.org and City-Data.com statistics.

However, Glendale currently maintains a C-minus on CrimeGrade, which is more in line with Phoenix to its east and north than Peoria to the west in safety rankings.

CrimeGrade's annual tangible cost of crime per Glendale resident is \$471, \$19 above the national average of \$452.

Glendale Police PIO Sergeant Bryan Hoskin stated in an email that GPD does not use outside sources for crime data.

The department's internal numbers are reflected on the Arizona Crime Statistics website, and that includes 2025 numbers, as well as

2026 totals to date.

For example, the Arizona Crime Statistics website groups data from violent crimes — murder, aggravated assault, robbery and sexual assaults. Glendale reported 1,139 total crimes in these categories in 2025, down 9.75% from 2024.

Thefts — auto thefts in particular — showed declines on City Data in 2024 but are still considerably higher than most of the rest of the state.

Thefts hit their post-COVID peak of 6,114 in 2022, dropped significantly to 4,984 in 2023. The number of thefts then dipped slightly to 4,938 in 2024, according to City Data.

Auto thefts leapt from 1,310 in 2022 to 1,567 in 2024, the highest number in the 14-year data set. The 2024 number, 1,121, was a significant drop, according to City Data.

"Glendale Police puts a lot of

• See **Crime** on page 28

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INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA

City Hall

• From page 26

a bit cooler, and our amphitheater.”

Local and regional dignitaries will speak at the ribbon cutting. Former elected officials are welcome.

Glendale then will lead a more public celebration at the Murphy Park amphitheater Saturday, June 20.

“We also wanted to make sure we created an event that celebrated the campus for the entire community,” Adkins said.

“This will include musical artists. It will have ice cream, food trucks, the winners of our arts and essay contests and some other things associated with our America250 celebration. All of this will culminate with a really cool drone show in the evening.”

City staff moved in a month before the festivities, May 18.

Budget Director Levi Gibson said some departments needed to continue working in their temporary spaces during move in day.

“The continuity of operations spaces, such as budget and finance, that are part of the annex and the adult center

The first floor of City Hall now features a “one-stop shop” for residents, including:

- Customer Service - where people can pay water bills.
- Development Services - Planning and Permitting.
- Tax and License - Business License Registration

— there’s some teams there that might have some float in between,” Gibson said.

Sod is being placed in the amphitheater, and sidewalks are in place in the park, he said.

The amphitheater is nearly done, with grass above the seating bowl.

Substantial completion of City Hall and the parking structure should be done by the end of May.

The north staircase is done, as are the meeting spaces.

Glendale will install a time capsule June 18, with a proposal to open it June 18, 2060, when Glendale turns 150.

The theme is celebrating Glendale’s spirit and the city wants to include items of city employees.

Crime

• From page 27

emphasis on these topics. Our patrol and investigative divisions work together in combating these issues with different tactics depending on the specific situation,” Hoskin stated. “We also have our Community Action Team that will go out to areas — such as apartment complexes — and place reminder flyers on cars and have meetings with housing management in an attempt to prevent any of these crimes.”

In 2025, auto thefts dropped dramatically again in Glendale, down 27.8% to 811 total.

The police department, Hoskin

said, regularly holds community meetings throughout the city with residents to discuss these matters in depth.

City Data concentrates on felonies and higher profile misdemeanors. It does not list crimes like speeding, which was a major emphasis point for the city starting in 2025. Glendale had 75 traffic fatalities combined during 2023 and 2024, according to city staff.

Last year, all 150 vehicles in the police department’s fleet received forward- and rear-mounted LiDAR radar detection.

“There were 1,407 more speed related citations for calendar year 2025 in comparison to 2024,” Hoskin stated.

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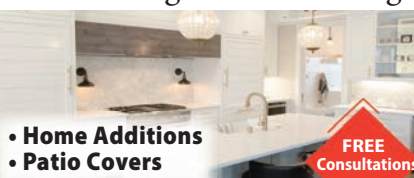
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Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues

☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



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