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LITCHFIELD PARK/GOODYEAR

INDEPENDENT

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July 2026 Volume 7 Issue 7

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Buc-ee's beaver fever hits the West Valley



The crowds were packed in for the opening of the newest Buc-ee's franchise location in Goodyear. (Steve Stockmar/Independent Newsmedia)

By James Goldmeer and Steve Stockmar

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The devotion of Buc-ee's fans was on full display in the desert heat as the Texas-based mega-center officially opened its first Arizona location, drawing tens of thousands of visitors

and triggering a massive, coordinated regional response.

The new 74,000-square-foot travel center, located on a 22-acre site at Interstate 10 and Bullard Avenue in Goodyear, opened its doors on Monday, June 22. Offering 120 gas pumps, an extensive food hall specializing in

Texas-style barbecue and its famous pristine restrooms, the 24-hour location is one of the largest travel center developments in the Southwest.

The opening drew an estimated 40,000 vehicles during its first week,

• See **Buc-ee's** on page **23**

La Loma readies August debut for cultural projects

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The historic 20-acre La Loma hilltop, once the private desert oasis of Litchfield Park founder Paul W. Litchfield, is on the verge of a sweeping transformation as multiple educational and community projects prepare to open their doors next month.

Following a five-month series of listening sessions spearheaded by Litchfield Park Councilmember Suzanne Allen, stakeholders presented a synchronized timeline of grand openings and construction milestones to the city council, signaling the end of a multiyear construction phase and the birth of a unified cultural destination.

"If everything plays out that's going on in Litchfield Park over the next five to 10 years, the Hilltop Project is going to be the most important project for our city," Litchfield Park Mayor Thomas Shoaf said during the meeting. "It is going

• See **La Loma** on page **6**

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COMMUNITY

Camp F.I.R.E.S. inspires young women to build leadership skills

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Olivia Pavlich first climbed a 100-foot fire ladder in 2023, she had to conquer a fear of heights.

Today, she is helping a new generation of young women face their own fears as a probationary firefighter with the Goodyear Fire Department and a mentor at the city's annual Camp F.I.R.E.S.

The five-day camp has evolved from a small event of eight participants to a full house of nearly 30 high school girls. Run by the Goodyear Fire Department, the program introduces young women to careers in emergency services while using firefighting drills to forge lifelong confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

For Pavlich, who just hit her six-month milestone on probation, the camp was a turning point. Growing up around the fire service culture through her father, a Goodyear firefighter, she loved the team dynamics of sports but found her true calling at Camp F.I.R.E.S.

"That's when I kind of fell in love with the fire aspect of things," Pavlich



Goodyear Fire Department's annual youth academy uses firefighting drills to build leadership and lifelong confidence. (James Goldmeer/Independent Newsmedia)

said. "After that, I started testing, trying to become an EMT. Mentoring the campers now is a cool opportunity because I have a different perspective on it, and I was just recently in their shoes."

The program places participants in physically and mentally demanding scenarios, including daily workouts, ladder climbs, and search-and-rescue simulations designed to push them past their perceived limits.

The impact of that environment is

coming full circle for participants like Kayla Casillas, a recent high school graduate. Casillas just completed her fourth and final year at the camp, serving as a student captain, a leadership role that allowed her to guide her peers through the grueling drills.

"I think it's really cool to see Olivia come back, because my first year, she was my captain," Casillas said. "To see her here is like, 'Wow, you made it all the way through.' It was just really

cool."

Though Casillas plans to study business marketing and advertising at Grand Canyon University this fall, and already runs a custom decorated sugar cookie small business, she credits the camp with teaching her to be comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Her favorite drill is the "smoked out" tunnel, where pairs of campers must crawl through a confined, obscured space in full firefighting gear to connect hose couplings.

"We can't get out until everyone's done with everything they need," Casillas said. "It's all a mental game. Seeing our peers do it makes you want to just be better for each other in a team aspect."

That sense of mutual support is exactly what veterans like Pavlich hope to instill.

By working closely with first responders and seeing women in leadership roles, the camp challenges traditional gender assumptions in a male-dominated field, equipping young women with tools that translate far beyond public safety.

Litchfield Park sets rules for e-bikes after safety concerns

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Litchfield Park City Council unanimously approved strict new regulations governing e-bikes, e-scooters and golf carts, moving past months of study to finalize an ordinance aimed at curbing what officials contend is reckless riding behavior across the city.

To address these safety gaps, the finalized ordinance establishes clear age brackets and equipment mandates for micromobility operators:

- Electric Scooters: Riders must



Litchfield Park officials cite reckless riding, near-miss incidents as city approves speed limits and enforcement measures. (Submitted photo/Metro Creative Connection)

- be at least 12 years old.

- Class 1 and Class 2 E-Bikes:

- Riders must be at least 14 years old using bikes capped at 20 mph.

- Class 3 E-Bikes: Riders must be at least 16 years old using bikes that cut off at 28 mph.

- Golf Carts: Any person operating a golf cart on a public street or pathway must hold a valid driver's license.

Any person under the age of 16 operating an electric bicycle or electric scooter is now legally required to wear a properly fitted and fastened protective helmet.

Residents looking to review the full legal text of Ordinance 26-301 can find information by visiting litchfieldpark.gov.

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FROM THE COVER

La Loma

- From page 1

to return the hilltop to prominence ... producing something that is sustainable long-term for our region, which is tremendous."

The rollout begins in mid-July, touching every major tenant anchoring the historic ridge at the intersection of Litchfield and Camelback roads.

The largest footprint on the hill belongs to the Agua Fria Union High School District's newly constructed campus, officially named The Hilltop School for the Arts.

Tom Huffman, Agua Fria's deputy superintendent of operations, announced school staff will begin moving into the new facility on July 17. The public, tuition-free arts academy will open its doors to an inaugural class of 150 students on Aug. 3.

The campus's adjacent 750-seat Performing Arts Center is scheduled to open shortly after on Oct. 2. The premier venue has already booked its first major commercial event: a performance by the Righteous Brothers on Oct. 10.

Mirroring the school's timeline, the Maricopa County Library District is wrapping up construction on its new 10,000-square-foot hilltop branch.

To facilitate the massive relocation of collections, the existing Litchfield Park Library is scheduled to close its doors on July 18. The modern, tech-forward replacement branch will launch on Aug. 3.



Litchfield Park's La Loma Hilltop is set for its first round of openings in August. (Submitted photo/P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center)

"In my 27 years of public librarianship, I've not seen a partnership set up like this ever," said Maricopa County Librarian Jeremy Reeder, highlighting the collaborative synergy among the hilltop's entities.

The new branch will solve long-standing community needs by introducing dedicated public study rooms and an advanced automated book-sorting system.

Progress is also accelerating on the preservation front. Lisa Hegerty, executive director of the P.W. Litchfield Heritage Center, said Waltz Construction has begun mobilizing on the historic hilltop homestead. Phase 1 renovations, which focus on restoring the primary living spaces of the original Litchfield residence into expanded galleries and temporary collection storage, will officially commence next week.

Simultaneously, the hilltop property is on the cusp of federal recognition. The Heritage Center's application to designate the entire Rancho La Loma property, including the iconic cottages, bandstand, and sunset terraces, as a historic district has cleared state reviews and sits before federal officials for final approval.

"Historic districts are a huge asset to communities," Hegerty said. "They are a living link between the past and the present."

Directly adjacent to these cultural spaces, Sun Health is executing major infrastructure upgrades for its senior living community, La Loma Village. The organization has invested \$1 million into sewer expansions and \$6 million into realigning Litchfield Road South and Denny Way to accommodate increased regional traffic.

John Couture, chief optimi-

zation officer for Sun Health, announced construction on a new resident-requested gathering space is at the halfway point, with a grand opening targeted for August.

Couture also stated Sun Health is vetting a high-end developer to build out an upscale 22-acre commercial district at Camelback Road and El Mirage Field, envisioned to feature fine dining and retail spaces that integrate seamlessly with the Performing Arts Center.

While the school, library, and heritage center represent the core catalysts of the multi-phase master plan, city planning officials emphasize that the revitalization is only just beginning.

Portions of the historic footprint remain open for further development, leaving an adaptable space for future generations of the West Valley.

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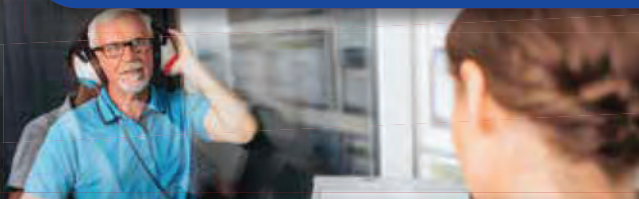
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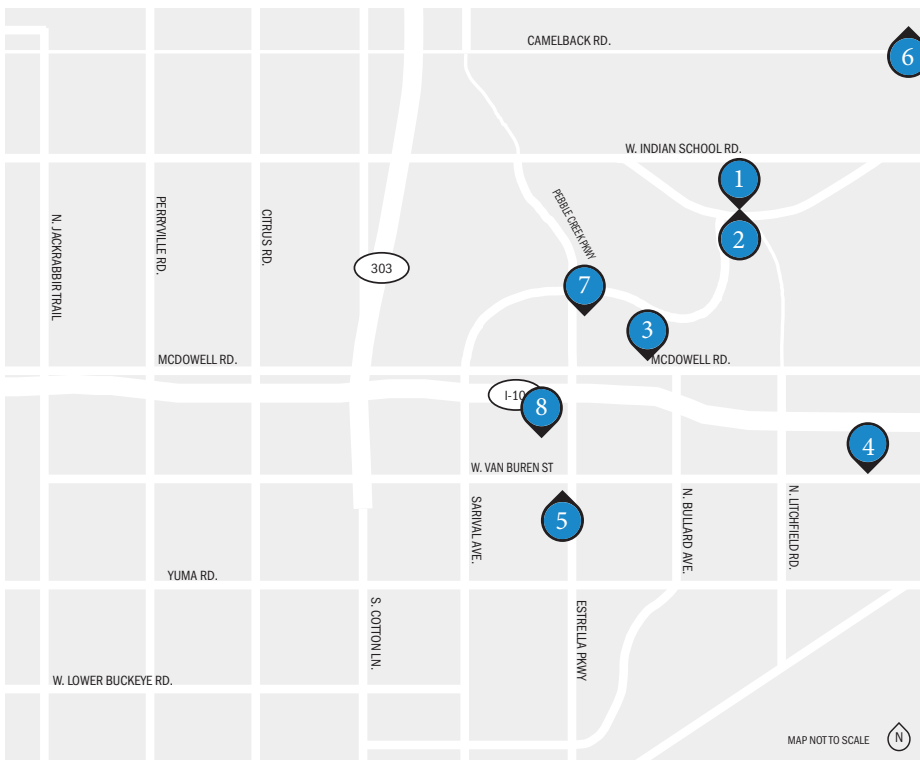
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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 Casa Verde Salon, 447 S. Old Litchfield Rd., Litchfield Park
This local boutique salon has officially opened at its new location after relocating from Avondale. It offers specialized hair services, precision cuts, and facial eyebrow waxing as part of the first public phase of The Thomas lifestyle center.

2 GlossD Studio, 447 S. Old Litchfield Rd., Litchfield Park
This specialized nail care concept has opened its doors alongside Casa Verde Salon at The Thomas. The studio is managed by experienced technicians and focuses on high-structure, precision hand treatments and premium gel applications.

3 Spinato's Pizzeria & Family Kitchen, northwest corner of 150th Drive and McDowell Road, Goodyear
The family- and employee-owned company has announced a new expansion to the West Valley, with a shell building already under construction. The highly requested Chicago-style pizzeria is slated to open to the public in the fourth quarter of 2027.

4 Tractor Supply Company, 13540 W. Van Buren St., Goodyear
This new retail storefront officially opened to the public following a grand opening event in June. The store sells agricultural supplies, livestock feed, and hardware aimed



SPINATO'S PIZZA

at local homeowners, gardeners, and ranchers.

5 AutoZone, 240 N. Estrella Parkway, Goodyear
This business has announced a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony at its storefront. The event was scheduled to take place on the morning of July 7, 2026.

6 Altitude Trampoline Park, 5110 N Dysart Rd Suite A140, Litchfield Park
This active entertainment venue has announced the grand opening of its new West Valley location. The business will celebrate its launch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 30, 2026.

7 Concentra, 2403 N. Pebble Creek Parkway, Suite 101, Goodyear
The national occupational health provider has announced the opening of its first medical center in Goodyear. The new facility expands access to workforce health services, physical therapy, and injury care for employers throughout the West



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8 Ageless Women's Health, 15655 W. Roosevelt St., Suite 243, Goodyear
This specialized medical clinic celebrated its grand opening on May 19. The business focuses on evidence-based hormone optimization and personalized metabolic care tailored specifically for women.

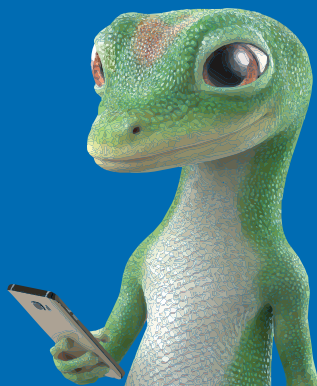
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BUSINESS

Litchfield high school district partners with coffee brand to launch cafe and art gallery

By James Goldmeier
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A local coffee brand and the Agua Fria Union High School District are teaming up to bring a blend of entrepreneurship, education and arts to the West Valley.

Modern Grind Coffee will open its first indoor, brick-and-mortar location in the fall inside the new Hilltop Theatre at the historic La Loma Homestead. Located on the second floor of the incoming performing arts venue, the cafe will sit directly alongside a student fine art gallery and feature an outdoor veranda overlooking the valley.

The partnership aims to bridge the gap between local business and public education by transforming the space into a hands-on learning laboratory for students.

“Just getting to work with students and create some new, unique opportunities for them is super exciting for us,” said Daphnie Kelly, founder of Modern Grind and a former elementary school teacher. “They can learn the art and the craft... and we will be roasting at that facility.”

The center’s two-story, 750-seat theater will open its doors in tandem with Modern Grind on Oct. 2, with classic acts like The Righteous Brothers already booked.

For Kelly, who previously founded a drama program while teaching and grew up playing seven instruments, the project represents a full-circle blending of her past and present. She hopes the facility will bring a highly anticipated level of sophistication to the West Valley community.

“We want this to feel like an East Valley experience, but we’re finally



Modern Grind Coffee announces a new location at the Hilltop Theatre. (James Goldmeier/Independent Newsmedia)

bringing that here to the West Valley,” Kelly said, describing the aesthetic goal as a “Scottsdale vibe” for high-end entertainment, food and drink. “This is a destination.”

Beyond serving traditional espresso, Modern Grind plans to install a commercial coffee roaster inside the facility. The addition will allow the company to roast its own beans for the first time, supplying its existing drive-thru location in Avondale and its mobile coffee trailer.

The roasting operation will double as an extracurricular classroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in work-based training programs, learning everything from the science of coffee beans to marketing, barista skills

• See **Grind** on page 23

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SCHOOLS

Federal court rejects \$64M lawsuit against Litchfield school district

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A federal appeals court has upheld a lower court's ruling against a former Litchfield Elementary School District board member who sought \$64 million in a lawsuit alleging the district conspired to silence him and ruin his reputation.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment granted by the lower courts, effectively ending Jeremy Hoenack's legal challenge against the district.

Hoenack, who represented him-

self in the litigation, originally filed the First Amendment lawsuit in 2022. He alleged that the district and various actors conspired to block his speech during governing board meetings and engaged in a campaign of harassment that included publicizing his home address and placing dog feces on his driveway.

In its decision, the court ruled that Hoenack failed to provide enough evidence to show his First Amendment rights were violated. The court stated that local gov-

• See **Lawsuit** on page 15



The Hilltop School for the Arts prepares to welcome students this July and August. (Submitted photo/Agua Fria High School District)

Two new Litchfield Park schools open in the 2026–27 academic year

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The West Valley's educational landscape will expand this summer with the opening of two highly anticipated campuses for the 2026–27

academic year.

The Hilltop School for the Arts, will open Monday, Aug. 3, welcoming approximately 400 students. Located within the Agua Fria Union

• See **New** on page 16





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Lawsuit

• From page 14

ernmental bodies do not violate the First Amendment when they restrict speech that is off-topic or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting.

Hoenack had sought \$64 million in reimbursement, claiming the stress of the alleged conspiracy caused him physical suffering, including a heart condition. The school district challenged these claims by producing medical records that showed Hoenack was coping well with ongoing legal stressors and had a clean bill of health regarding his mental status.

The court also affirmed the lower court's decision to award attorney's fees to the school district. Under Arizona law, such awards are required when a party brings a claim "without substantial justification."

While the court denied the district's specific request for additional attorney's fees related to the appeal because of a procedural filing error, that denial was made, allowing the district to potentially refile the request.

The ruling leaves Hoenack responsible for the lower court's judgment and legal fees, with the Ninth Circuit finding no "genuine dispute of material fact" to support his claims of defamation, emotional distress, or constitutional violations.

"(The) district respects the First Amendment rights of all individuals and remains committed to transparency while serving our students, families, staff and community," Litchfield Elementary School district officials said in response to the updated ruling.

Hoenack did not respond to a request for comment.

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A new Litchfield Elementary School District campus opens July 30. (Submitted photo/Litchfield Elementary School District)

New

- From page 14

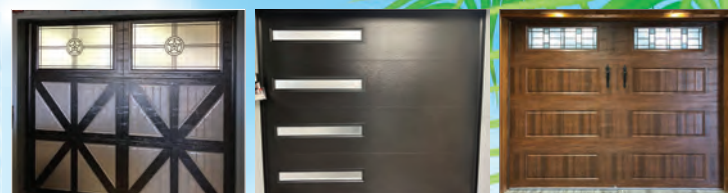
High School District, the school features a 700-seat theater and seven specialized academies designed to launch students into creative careers. An open house is scheduled for July 29. More information is available at hilltop.aguafria.org.

Additionally, the Litchfield El-

ementary School District will open its 17th campus, Troy Gilbert Elementary School, on Thursday, July 30. The \$41.6 million, K-8 facility honors an Air Force pilot who died during a 2006 combat mission.

The campus, which has a capacity of 1,120 students, will hold an open house July 28 and a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 28. Details are at lesd79.org.

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Saturday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m.,
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After Hours Art Talk: Public Art and The Art of Placemaking

Tuesday, July 28 from 7 - 7:30 p.m.
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Wigwam Friday Fireside History

Friday, August 14 from 5 - 6 p.m.
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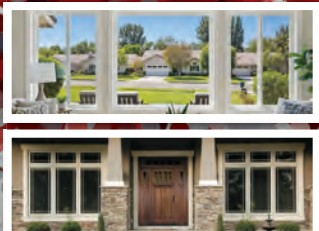




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West Valley food bank to provide 880 backpacks for students in need

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank is issuing an appeal for community donations and volunteers as it prepares to outfit a record 888 local students for the upcoming school year through its Backpacks & More 2026 campaign.

The annual program provides registered preschool through eighth-grade students in Avondale, Buckeye, Cashion, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Tolleson with a backpack, school supplies, a pair of shoes, and two school uniforms at no cost to the families.

While student registration for the assistance has closed, organizers say community funding is critical to fulfilling the requests of those who signed up. The drive comes at

a challenging time for the nonprofit, which has been stretched thin by a nearly 15% increase in families seeking emergency food assistance over the past year.

“People are working and doing everything they can, and it’s still not enough,” said Leanne Leonard, executive director of the Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank. “We’re seeing neighbors who have never needed assistance before walking through our doors.”

Last year, the program served a record 868 students. With demand climbing due to rising living costs, the organization is seeking individual donations and corporate sponsorships to bridge the gap for this year’s 888 children. The cost to sponsor supplies, shoes, socks, and

• See **Backpacks** on page 19



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Agua Fria Food & Clothing Bank will sponsor 888 students before the school year begins. (Submitted photo/Metro Creative Connection)

Backpacks

• From page 18

uniforms for a single student is \$50.

These physical donations can be dropped off 8 a.m.-noon Mon-

day-Friday at the food bank, 405 E Harrison Drive in Avondale.

"Steady help is critical to keeping services available," Leonard said.

Visit affcb.org for more information.

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RECREATION

West Valley family launches sports league to fight adult isolation

By James Goldmeer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Mario Marquez was tired of the drive. Like many West Valley residents, the Buckeye civil engineer regularly spent up to an hour commuting into Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe just to play recreational sports and unwind after a 40-hour work week.

“The West Valley has been growing for years,” Marquez said. “I knew I wasn’t the only one traveling or wanting something closer. Life is hard, and we all struggle a lot. We just need that little break from the world to go hang out and do something fun with cool people.”

Marquez, his brother, and their wives decided to stop driving and build their own solution. Operating as a newly formed LLC, the family launched the Desert Rec Sports



Buckeye resident sets up recreational sports league at Sundance Park. (Submitted photo/ Mario Marquez)

League at Sundance Park in Buckeye.

The grassroots business quickly found an audience, drawing 17 coed slowpitch softball teams immediately.

To gain traction, the business partnered with local commercial spots. Tailgaters in Buckeye signed on as the official league sponsor, offering play-

ers a 10% discount on game days to foster a post-game hangout spot. Marquez also uses the league’s platform to cross-promote other independent businesses, including a local mom-and-pop boba parlor.

Marquez said the primary goal of the business is to keep recreation-

al sports affordable at a time when older, established city leagues have grown increasingly expensive and hyper-competitive.

“I see a lot of issues in some of the East Valley leagues where they start upcharging you, and it’s getting a little ridiculous,” Marquez said. “We all have bills to pay, gas is higher, and inflation is up. Why do we have to pay more just to have fun? The main point is not to make money; it’s to share the things that I love.”

That social-first mission is built directly into how the league handles individual players. Rather than turning away “free agents” who signed up without a full team, league organizers grouped the strangers together to form their own squads.

Visit desertrecsportsleague.com for more information.

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BENEFIT

Litchfield Park thrift shop celebrates 60 years of service

By James Goldmeier
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A Litchfield Park thrifting staple is preparing to hit a major milestone.

TheShop@CLP, on the campus of The Church at Litchfield Park, will celebrate 60 years of community service this October.

What began in 1966 as a one-day-a-month volunteer effort has evolved into a community hub that transforms donated goods into funding for local outreach programs and church development.

Managed by local resident Jane Biggs, TheShop@CLP offers a boutique-style experience featuring new and gently used clothing, jewelry, housewares, linens, media, and electronics. The shop operates out of a dedicated building on the church parking lot at 300 N. Old Litchfield



TheShop@CLP has raised nearly half a million dollars to support West Valley food banks, veterans and youth outreach. (James Goldmeier/Independent Newsmedia)

Road.

"Our missions directly support the Agua Fria Food Bank, local veterans, and homeless youth," Biggs said.

"Every purchase and donation helps extend our reach while blessing the local community."

The thrift store relies on community generosity and volunteers to keep its doors open.

♦ Donation Drop-offs: Fridays from 8 - 11 a.m. Most items are accepted, with the exception of large furniture.

♦ Shopping Hours: Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

The thrift store's history is intertwined with the historic town of Litchfield Park itself. The non-denominational church was originally founded in 1938 by Paul W. Litchfield, then-vice president of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, who initially came to the area during World War I to grow Pima cotton for tire manufacturing.

The thrift shop itself was conceived in 1966 by Millicent Whitwell, the church organist and choir director, as a way to raise charitable funds for migrant farm workers. The first sale was held on Oct. 20, 1966, inside Hank Raymond's Boswell Cotton Gin, netting just \$56.02.

During its 54-year stretch leading up to recent church changes, the shop generated more than \$483,000 in total earnings. This revenue funded everything from local high school scholarships to major church advancements, complementing major historical milestones like the \$1.5 million preservation and expansion building campaigns led by long-time pastor Rev. Judson Souers between the 1980s and 2000s.

Visit clp.church for more information.

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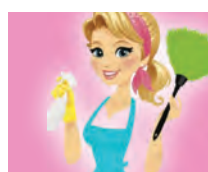
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FROM THE COVER

Buc-ee's

- From page 1

prompting local officials to execute a strict 6.5-mile traffic routing plan. Police and fire departments managed severe delays and temporary closures, including the eastbound I-10 off-ramp at Estrella Parkway and Bullard Avenue between McDowell Road and I-10. Some streets were so packed that fans willingly parked and walked a mile just to step inside.

For many, the commute was much longer.

"We drove eight hours to get here," said Luis Aragon, who traveled from Fresno, California, decked out in a Buc-ee's-style baseball jersey. "We're from California and we don't even have a Buc-ee's in California. This is the closest Buc-ee's to us."

Inside, patrons hunted for signature snacks like Beaver Nuggets, crunchy corn puffs with a caramel glaze, and the chain's famous wall of beef jerky.

"I had no idea they had all this and the brisket and everything else," said Ysenia Rios, who drove an hour from Casa Grande, gesturing to the stocks of merchandise.

Some local residents had been waiting two years for this day. Curtis Smith of Mesa browsed the aisles wearing a head-to-toe costume of the chain's mascot, Buc-ee the Beaver.

"Half my suitcase was just Buc-ees-related stuff," Smith laughed, recalling previous family trips to Texas.

The Goodyear location is a new powerhouse for the local economy, employing nearly 300 full-time workers.

"We're going to blow minimum wage out of the water here," Buc-ee's co-founder Arch "Beaver" Aplin III said. Starting pay for the new roles ranges from \$18 to \$23 per hour.

For Goodyear, however, the strategy is about transforming a roadside phenomenon into long-term community wealth.

The city's Office of Tourism, launched in July 2025, is entering its second year with a hard pivot toward external marketing, leveraging internal data showing that approximately 45% of Buc-ee's visitors travel from more than 100 miles away.

"Buc-ee's is going to be one of the best things to get Goodyear on the map for tourists," said Wendy Bridges, Goodyear's former economic development director.

Joe Stewart, the city's interim deputy director of economic development, explained that the push for multi-day visitation is mathematically tied to municipal funding via Proposition 302, a state program fueled by hotel taxes and rental car surcharges. While Goodyear has historically relied on spring training baseball at Goodyear Ballpark to drive overnight

hotel stays, the city is shifting to a year-round approach.

"Our council vision is to get tourists to visit Goodyear and stay in Goodyear," Stewart said. "If you're here to see Buc-ee's, stay the next day, go to the Estrella Mountains and explore."

To capture the influx of travelers, the city has centralized physical operations by moving its official Arizona Visitor Information Center to City Hall and creating print dining guides for local hotel desks to redirect hungry travelers to local brick-and-mortar restaurants.

"They might buy something at Buc-ee's, but then they have dinner and breakfast locally," Stewart said, adding that a distinct community identity also aids in corporate recruitment for healthcare, manufacturing, and life sciences.

By Monday, June 29, a week after the grand opening, Bullard Avenue officially reopened to regular traffic. While regional roads have returned to normal operations, city officials warn that crowds at the travel center are expected to remain heavy.

Drivers heading to the store can now freely exit at Litchfield Road, Bullard Avenue, or Estrella Parkway, while non-visitors are still advised to consider alternative routes. Local public safety officials continue to urge visitors to remain patient and prepare for intense summer heat.

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Grind

- From page 12

and how to curate and sell artwork displayed in the adjacent gallery.

The evening-heavy schedule of the performance theater also solves a common barrier for local youth employment.

"Typically, it's a struggle to hire high schoolers because we close early," Kel-

ly said. "But with all of the events there mostly being at night, we'll finally be able to have high schoolers working."

For a business built around community connection, Kelly sees the expansion as a natural progression of their mission.

"I think it's important for us to invest in the community because we're all raising our families together," Kelly said. "Why not make it a better place for everyone living here?"

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