



## Local baker building specialty cookie business

By Janet Perez  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Like many people during the COVID-19 lockdown, Isabella Silver turned to a hobby — baking — to help pass the time.

Unlike many people who returned to their old lives after the lockdown lifted, Silver kept thinking about how much she enjoyed her time baking. Two years ago, she opted to turn it into a business that has gone beyond making treats.

The Queen Creek resident is the owner of Georgie's Cookies, where selling cookies is only part of the business. Silver, 29, also started producing mixes people can use to recreate her recipes.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Silver followed her parents to Queen Creek while she remotely worked on a degree in psychology from Penn State during the lockdown.

"I had originally wanted to be an art therapist, but I ended up never really doing anything with it be-

• See **Cookies** on page 32

# E-bike complaints fall, parents seek kids safety courses



Queen Creek Police Sgt. Christian Williams leads a safety course on e-bikes and other motorized devices. (QCPD)

By Janet Perez  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

**O**ne positive result of Queen Creek's emergency ordinance to curb reckless operation of e-bikes and other motorized devices is that more parents are proactively signing up their kids for the police department's safety courses.

Under the ordinance, officers who catch underage kids riding recklessly will call the parents to the scene, issue a seizure form and place a mandatory 72-hour hold on the device. To get the device back, an impoundment fee will apply, as well as comple-

• See **Classes** on page 28



We service all makes and models



**Free oil change**  
with any service or repair  
totaling \$600 or more  
(Valued at \$59.95. First time customers only)



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Queen Creek,  
Arizona  
Permit No. 32

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*  
Postal Customer

# Imagine your home, totally organized!

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

**40% off**  
Plus  
**Free Installation**

**PLUSTAKE  
AN EXTRA 15% off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of \$1000 or more or 30% off any order of \$700-\$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of \$850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Offer not valid in all regions. Expires 9/30/26.

**SPECIAL FINANCING  
FOR 18 MONTHS!**

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



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

**480-764-2884** IN

[closetsbydesign.com](https://www.closetsbydesign.com)



Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

 **ClosetsbyDesign®**

# GreatHearts<sup>®</sup>

## Blossom Rock

# This is where your student *belongs.*

Classical education is coming to Apache Junction! Learn more about our top-performing, tuition-free, K-5 academy opening in Fall 2027.



SCAN  
TO  
LEARN  
MORE



## COMMUNITY

# Queen Creek looks at enhancing safeguards on use of license plate readers

By Janet Perez

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As municipalities across the Valley and state grapple with the use of automated license plate readers Queen Creek is taking a proactive stance.

The Queen Creek Town Council is looking at ways to enhance automated license plate reader safeguards already in place to oversee access, conduct audits and ensure data-sharing is limited to Arizona law-enforcement agencies.

"It's not complaint driven. It's not based off of misuse. We're just doing a proactive approach," Queen Creek Mayor Julia Wheatley said. "We want to make sure that our residents recognize that we are making sure we are balancing that technology with accountability and even going as far as making it a crime to misuse this technology."

The council is considering:

- Potential policy changes to further restrict access and data sharing
- Potential ordinance changes to enhance accountability, making it a misdemeanor to misuse ALPR technology
- Available technology and potential contract changes



**The Queen Creek Town Council is considering further restrictions on access and sharing of data generated by automated license plate readers. (Courtesy Flock Security)**

Earlier this month, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office announced it would be terminating its contract with Flock Safety for its automated license plate reader cameras citing Fourth Amendment concerns.

Chandler also is ending its contract with Flock Safety amid what Chandler Police Chief Bryan Chapman said was

suspected misuse or unauthorized use of the system "within our department."

Currently, the Queen Creek Police Department has a contract with Flock Safety and is beta testing Axon products.

Queen Creek Police Chief Randy Brice said the upcoming discussions and possible action would be useful in explaining to the public how the technology works and how it is used by the department.

"I want to be clear though with this technology; it only identifies vehicle information, and what I mean specifically is the license plate that's displayed on the vehicle and the characteristics of the vehicle that are visible from the rear of the car," Brice said. "It doesn't identify drivers, people, it's not continuous tracking, it's not mass surveillance."

He added that the department does not share information with federal agencies such as the FBI or ICE.

"We want to make sure we have the proper policies, workflows, audit trails, all the different things that actually make this a bulletproof system so that it's not being misused," Brice said. "It's more about the way that it's applied.

That's important. Technology can always be misused if not done right."

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the automated license plate readers provided leads in more than 2,400 cases.

"We have had cases, very specifically with our human trafficking, sexual assaults, other types of very serious crimes, where this has led to the resolution or finding people or at least given us leads in order to go down the road where we can rule out certain things or find that next piece of the puzzle to actually find people," Brice said.

Wheatley and Brice emphasize that the automated license plate readers are just one tool in QCPD's crime-fighting toolbox.

"It's a tremendous tool and we want to make sure that those that keep us safe have the tools that they need to help them solve these crimes. But again, we need to make sure that we're doing it responsibly," Wheatley said.

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

## YOURVALLEY.NET



## TRANSPORTATION

## Town of Queen Creek creates standalone transportation department

Queen Creek has moved transportation duties out of public works to create a freestanding department.

"As our community has grown, our infrastructure and service needs have become more complex. This structural change will allow each department

to sharpen its focus, improve operational efficiency and better serve our residents," Queen Creek Town Council Member Jeff Brown said.

The new transportation department will oversee traffic engineering, pavement preservation and streets, while the public works department will retain fleet, facilities and environmental services. The town now has more than 900 lane miles and over 90 traffic

• See **Transportation** on page 5

**The construction and improvement of roads in Queen Creek will now be overseen by the new, dedicated transportation department. The department formerly was under public works. (Town of Queen Creek)**

## Transportation

• From page 4

signals.

Mohamed Youssef, who had been helming public works, will be directing the transportation department. Youssef has been with the town for more than a decade. Read more: [bit.ly/4is5a6E](https://bit.ly/4is5a6E)

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Teens arrested while playing 'Senior Assassins'

The game "Senior Assassins" has become serious business for two Queen Creek teens.

On the evening of Aug. 8, the Queen Creek Police Department responded to reports of people with guns at a drive-thru restaurant at Rittenhouse Road and Ellsworth Loop.

Officers determined that two teens were participating in the student-organized game "Senior Assassins,"



This mural is located on the east side of Ellsworth Road just north of Aldecoa Drive. (Town of Queen Creek)

which involves students from different schools using water guns to "tag" their targets in parks, restaurants, shopping centers and neighborhoods.

Both teens had water guns, and one was wearing a cloth-type mask. There were no reports of shots fired or injuries.

"These two 17-year-old juveniles were subsequently arrested and booked into Maricopa County Juvenile Detention for disorderly conduct. This remains an active and ongoing investigation," according to a statement from QCPD. Read more:

[bit.ly/4c3K1fo](https://bit.ly/4c3K1fo)

## PUBLIC ART

### Proposed move could bring more murals to town

Queen Creek is taking steps to bring more public art to the town through a change in its sign ordinance.

During its Aug. 12 meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of new language covering murals, as well as exempting them from the town's sign

ordinance.

The added language would make sure murals are not promoting a business, thus falling under the sign ordinance.

Under the new language, a mural would be defined as a "pictorial work of art that is painted, drawn, applied or projected on the exterior surface of a building or structure, that is non-commercial and does not name, advertise or promote a business, organization, service or product," according to a staff report. Read more: [bit.ly/4cGAz1z6](https://bit.ly/4cGAz1z6)

## WATER

### Town continues working toward water independence

Queen Creek may have made the final payment on more than 1 million acre-feet of Harquahala Valley basin water in July, but the work to get that water to the town is far from over.

At a planning meeting on Aug. 10,

• See **Water** on page 31

# GROW WITH CONFIDENCE.

Western 

Bank • Invest • Insure

Your Hometown Bank

Scan the QR code to learn more about our CD special or visit [westernbanks.com](https://westernbanks.com)



976 W Chandler Blvd • Chandler  
480-855-6287 • [WESTERNBANKS.COM](https://WESTERNBANKS.COM)

## BUSINESS

# Marshalls, HomeGoods open in San Tan Valley

Two national retailers have opened stores at Skyline Ranch Marketplace in San Tan Valley.

Marshalls and HomeGoods were ready for shoppers on Aug. 27. Marshalls is located at 1424 W. Hunt Highway and HomeGoods is at 1420 W. Hunt Highway.

The 24,000 square foot Marshalls offers clothing, accessories, shoes, beauty, home items and more.

“With the opening of this store, we are excited to provide San Tan Valley shoppers with high-quality, brand name merchandise at an amazing value,” Nancy Carpenter, president of Marshalls, stated in a press release.

The new store plans to add about 60



Marshalls and HomeGoods stores opened at Skyline Ranch Marketplace in San Tan Valley on Aug. 27, joining anchor store WinCo Foods supermarket. (Rendering courtesy of REALM)

full and part-time jobs to the area. Marshalls will also contribute a \$10,000 donation to a local charity.

The 25,000 square foot HomeGoods offers furniture, rugs, lighting,

decorative accessories, kitchen and dining, bedding, bath and more.

The new store plans to add about 65 full and part-time jobs to the area. HomeGoods will also donate \$10,000

to a local charity through a grant from its Find Home Anywhere charitable arm.

Skyline Ranch Marketplace, a 31-acre commercial site in San Tan Valley, was acquired last year by Scottsdale-based Pennant Development and Tennessee-based real estate investment firm REALM.

The site is anchored by a WinCo Foods supermarket and has a Home Depot, Panda Express and Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers. Leases also have been signed with Ulta Beauty, PetSmart and Five Below.

Marshalls and HomeGoods are owned by TJX Companies, which also owns TJ Maxx.

## BUSINESS

## CLOSURE

## Salad and Go locations to become Dutch Bros

Dutch Bros Coffee is purchasing the assets of the closing Salad and Go business, according to documents from U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Southern Texas.

The documents show Tempe-based Dutch Bros will purchase Salad and Go's assets of \$105 million.

Dutch Bros will take over Salad and Go's leases and equipment at its Arizona and Nevada drive-thru locations, converting them to sell coffee, beverages, and food items. The documents also show the locations don't require any alterations or maintenance since they operate in drive-thru-only formats.

Queen Creek has two Salad and Go locations at 1429 S. Ellsworth Road and 90 W. Ocotillo Road. San Tan Valley has one location at 1754 W. Hunt Highway.



There are six Dutch Bros locations in the Queen Creek-San Tan Valley area. Read more: [bit.ly/4gPA8V9u](https://bit.ly/4gPA8V9u)

## AI

## Chamber offers AI basics training

The Queen Creek Chamber of

Commerce is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to provide AI training to small businesses Queen Creek and San Tan Valley.

Small Business B(AI)sics is a national initiative from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, with support from Google, that aims to equip small

Small businesses can learn how to use AI through this Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce workshop. (Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce)

businesses with practical AI skills.

“Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming an essential business tool, and we're proud to partner with the U.S. Chamber Foundation to provide local entrepreneurs with practical, hands-on training they can immediately apply

## Business

• From page 6

to save time, increase productivity and grow their businesses,” Chris Clark, president and CEO of the Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce, stated in a press release.

Small Business B(AI)sics aims to train 40,000 U.S. entrepreneurs over the next three years through a mix of in-person workshops and digital learning resources. Read more: [bit.ly/4xljliP](https://bit.ly/4xljliP)

## BANKING

### Bank celebrates two years serving town

The Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated Academy Bank’s two-year anniversary with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“The support and encouragement



Academy Bank celebrated its second anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce. (Queen Creek Chamber of Commerces)

I’ve received from our customers, chamber members and fellow business leaders has meant so much to me. Without all of you, I don’t think I would have been able to accomplish everything we have over these past two years,” Karla Miramontes, business development manager of Academy Bank Queen Creek, stated in a

press release. “It’s been an amazing journey, and I’m excited to continue serving this wonderful community for many years to come,”

Academy Bank, located at 37724 N. Gantzel Road, is a full-service community bank offering a range of personal, business and commercial banking solutions. Read more: [bit.ly/4it5n9H](https://bit.ly/4it5n9H)

[ly/4it5n9H](https://bit.ly/4it5n9H)

## HEALTH

### Valley visitors spent record \$13.4B last year

Whether they were booking hotel rooms, dining at neighborhood restaurants, shopping at local stores or visiting attractions, millions of travelers pumped a record \$13.4 billion into the metro Phoenix economy last year.

A new report from Tourism Economics, prepared for a Visit Phoenix press release, found that 47.7 million people visited Greater Phoenix in 2025. Their spending supported more than 144,000 jobs across the Valley and generated billions in tax revenue that helps fund public services.

For many businesses, tourism isn’t just about vacationers — it’s about keeping employees working year-round.

Read more: [bit.ly/4gi5V0V](https://bit.ly/4gi5V0V)



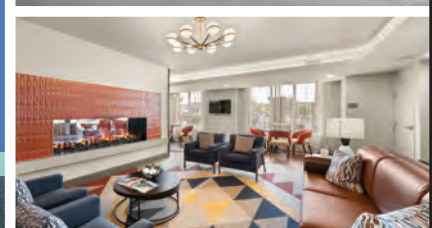
**VERENA<sup>®</sup>**  
AT GILBERT  
BY TRUE CONNECTION COMMUNITIES<sup>®</sup>

**55+ ACTIVE ADULT LIVING**

**A LIFESTYLE DESIGNED  
FOR EXCEPTIONAL EASE**



SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY



**Call (480) 864-4489 to schedule your tour!**

1505 Willis Road • Gilbert, AZ 85297 • (480) 864-4489 • [VerenaAtGilbert.com](https://VerenaAtGilbert.com)



# BUSINESS MOVES



## NOW OPEN

### 1 Marshalls 1424 W. Hunt Highway, San Tan Valley

Marshalls opened its new store at Skyline Ranch Marketplace in San Tan Valley on Aug. 27. The 24,000 square foot store offers clothing, accessories, shoes, beauty, home items and more. The new store plans to add about 60 full and part-time jobs to the area.

### 2 HomeGoods 1420 W. Hunt Highway, San Tan Valley

HomeGoods opened its new store at Skyline Ranch Marketplace in San Tan Valley on Aug. 27. The 25,000 square foot store offers furniture, rugs, lighting, decorative accessories, kitchen and dining, bedding, bath and more. The new store plans to add about 65 full and part-time jobs to the area.

## CLOSED

### 3 Salad and Go 1429 S. Ellsworth Road

### 4 Salad and Go 90 W. Ocotillo Road

Salad and Go's 70 locations in Arizona and Nevada were closed on Aug. 5. There were two locations in Queen Creek. Documents from U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Southern Texas show Tempe-based Dutch Bros will purchase Salad and Go's assets of \$105 million and will convert the drive-thrus to sell coffee, beverages, and food items.

## NEW OWNERS

### 5 The Bistro Queen Creek 22721 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite 107

The Bistro Queen Creek has new owners. The Bonnin family moved from France to purchase the eatery. The couple owned a restaurant in France and decided to pull up stakes and move to the U.S. days before opening The Bistro. The restaurant offers a blend of old favorites plus new dishes inspired by France.

## CONSTRUCTION

### 6 The Collective on Ocotillo Southeast corner of Ocotillo Road



## THE COLLECTIVE ON OCOTILLO

### and 226th Street

Work has started on a medical office development at the southeast corner of Ocotillo Road and 226th Street in Queen Creek. The \$20.1 million project, developed by A.T. Craft of Mesa, is called The Collective on Ocotillo and will feature a new Class A medical office condominium development. Construction is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2027.

## LIQUOR LICENSE

### 7 Harkins Queen Creek 14 20481 E. Rittenhouse Road

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving Harkins Queen Creek 14 for a Series 12 license. The license is "designed for bona fide restaurants where the primary business is the sale of food, and the sale of spirituous liquor (beer, wine and distilled spirits) is incidental to the food service," according to a council staff report.

### 8 Carniceria Sonora 22485 E. Queen Creek Road

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving Carniceria Sonora for a Series 10 liquor license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. A series 10 license authorizes the sale of beer and wine but not distilled spirits for consumption off the licensed premises. It is commonly held by grocery stores, convenience stores, specialty beer and wine shops and other retail establishments that primarily sell packaged



## THE BISTRO QUEEN CREEK



## CARNICERIA SONORA

beer and wine, according to a council staff report.

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

# LABOR DAY Sale

IT'S OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR ... WE'D RATHER SELL IT THAN COUNT IT! NOW IS THE TIME TO GET TO SPENCERS ... YOU NEED A DEAL, WE NEED TO MOVE IT OUT OF OUR WAREHOUSE. EVERY MANUFACTURER HAS LOWERED PRICES !! ASK ABOUT OUR EXCLUSIVE REBATES. GET TO SPENCERS TODAY!!

## AMANA

### WASHER

- 3.4 Cu. Ft. Capacity
- 8 Wash Cycles
- 3 Temperature Settings
- Dual Action Agitator

NTW4501XQ CLOSEOUT

### DRYER

- Super Capacity
- Multiple Drying Cycles
- Automatic Dryness Control

NED4500VQ CLOSEOUT



**\$399 EACH**

## KITCHEN REMODEL Whirlpool

### REFRIGERATOR

- 25 Cubic Foot Capacity
- Infinity Slide Shelves
- Pizza Pocket
- Fingerprint Resistant Black Stainless Steel

WRS325FNAM CLOSEOUT

### DISHWASHER

- 24"
- 15 Place Settings
- 5 Wash Cycles
- Total Coverage Spray Arm
- Anyware Basket

WDT750SAHZ CLOSEOUT

### RANGE

- 30"
- 5.3 Cu. Ft.
- Dual Elements
- Flex Heat™
- Self Clean

WFE1550JS CLOSEOUT

### OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE

- 1.7 Cu. Ft.
- 1000 Watts
- 2 Speed Fan

WMH31077FS CLOSEOUT



**\$2399 BUYS ALL 4 PIECES**

PLUS GET \$400 REBATE\*

**LOWER PRICES!**

## FRIGIDAIRE



### 18 CU. FT. CAPACITY REFRIGERATOR

- Humidity Controlled
- Crisper Drawers
- Top Freezer
- Modern Design

FFHT1822UV Stainless Steel

**\$499**

## Hotpoint

### DISHWASHER

- Normal Wash Cycle
- Heated Dry On/ Off
- Standard Upper Rack

HDF310PGRBB

**\$319**



## FRIGIDAIRE

### STAINLESS STEEL 23 CU. FT. SIDE BY SIDE

- Deli Drawer
- Crisper Shelves
- LED Lighting

FFSS2315TS CLOSEOUT

**\$999**



**"SPENCERS, IT'S LIKE HAVING A FRIEND IN THE BUSINESS"**



OPEN DAILY 9AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM  
SUNDAY 11AM - 5PM



**WWW.SPENCERSTV.COM**

MESA SHOWROOM | 115 W. First Ave. | 480-833-3072  
AHWATUKEE | 4601 E. Ray Rd. | Phoenix | 480-777-7103  
GILBERT Santan Village | 2711 S. Santan Village Pkwy | 480-366-3900  
GLENDALE | 10220 N. 43rd Ave | 602 504-2122  
GOODYEAR | 1707 N. Litchfield Rd | 623-930-0770  
RECONDITION CENTER | 160 East Broadway | 480-615-1763  
SCOTTSDALE | 14202 N. Scottsdale Rd. | 480-991-7200  
SCOTTSDALE/PHOENIX | 13820 N. Tatum Blvd. | 602 494-0100  
MESA CLEARANCE CENTER | 115 W. First Ave. | 480-833-3072  
MESA | 5141 S. Power Rd. | 480-988-1917  
BILTMORE - PHOENIX | 2102 E. Camelback Rd. | 602-457-4770  
NEW ARROWHEAD RANCH | 7760 W. Bell Road | 623-487-7700

REAL ESTATE

# Queen Creek buyers, sellers face challenges in July

By Janet Perez  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Some clouds are forming over Queen Creek's housing market that are affecting buyers and sellers.



Glassman

"Several external factors are influencing Queen Creek's housing market right now, with affordability and mortgage rates among the biggest. Rates remain in the upper 6% range,

which has reduced purchasing power and caused some buyers to be more cautious about making a move," said Sammy Glassman, board president of Phoenix Realtors, a local association for Valley Realtors.

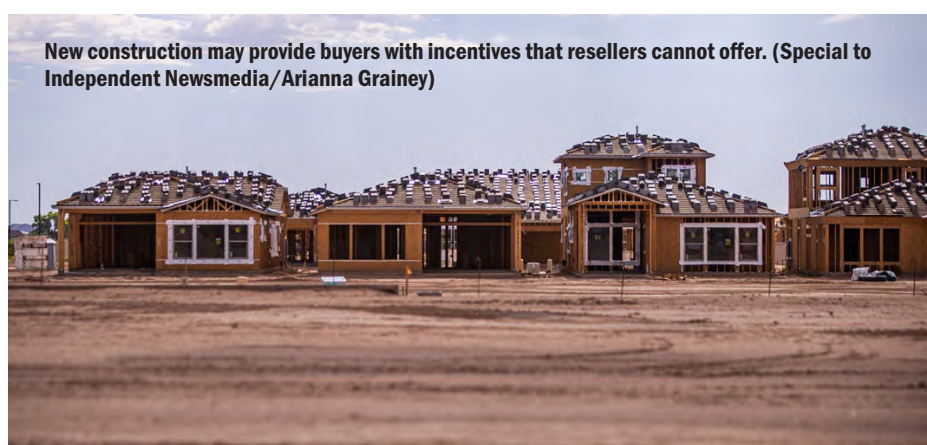
Pending sales and closed sales trended lower in July. The number of closed sales fell 12.5% over the previous year, while pending sales tumbled by 41.7%

The median sales price rose 0.3% to \$659,500 compared with July 2025, which Glassman described as "remarkably resilient."

The average sales price increased 3.5% year-over-year to \$775,129.

In July, sellers received an average of 98.3% of their list price, up just 0.1% from the previous year.

"Over the next three months, I



New construction may provide buyers with incentives that resellers cannot offer. (Special to Independent Newsmedia/Arianna Grainey)

expect buyers to remain price- and payment-conscious, particularly if mortgage rates stay elevated," Glassman said.

Buyers are getting an assist from continued new-home construction that is putting sellers at a disadvantage.

"Queen Creek buyers also have to weigh resale homes against a significant amount of new construction, where builders may be able to offer financing incentives or other concessions that individual sellers cannot," Glassman said. "Sellers should expect buyers to be selective and should focus on pricing, condition and how their home compares not only with other resale properties, but with near-by new construction."

Under these conditions, buyers "may find opportunities to negotiate that were much harder to come by several years ago," Glassman said.

Comparing the first seven months of 2026 with last year, existing single-family home sales rose 5.1% across the Valley, according to data from Phoenix Realtors. At the same time, pending sales were down just 0.6%, and new listings fell by 2.8% in the Phoenix metro.

In Maricopa County, year-to-date sales were up 5.2%, pending sales saw a 0.1% drop, and new listings were down 3.2%.

Closed sales in Pinal County saw a year-to-date drop of 0.5%, pending sales dropped 5.3%, and new listings fell 5.7% compared to the same peri-

## QUEEN CREEK HOUSING MARKET IN JULY

- New Listings: 164 (-5.7%)
  - Pending Sales: 77 (-41.7%)
  - Closed Sales: 126 (-12.5%)
  - Days on Market Until Sale: 81 (-2.4%)
  - Median Sales Price: \$659,500 (+0.3%)
  - Average Sales Price: \$775,129 (+3.5%)
  - Percent of List Price Received: 98.3% (+0.1%)
  - Inventory of Homes for Sale: 594 (+1.0%)
  - Months Supply of Inventory: 4.5 (+4.7%)
- \*Source: Phoenix Realtors

od in 2025.

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

**RED MOUNTAIN FLOORING AZ**  
**480-380-3211**  
10104 E. APACHE TRAIL, APACHE JUNCTION  
**"YOUR FLOORING PROFESSIONALS"**

11CFC CERTIFIED  
ROC #201105

**WE SELL** CARPET — TILE — WOOD — LAMINATE — VINYL — SHEET VINYL  
**WE BUILD** CUSTOM SHOWERS — BACKSPLASHES  
**WE CLEAN** CARPET — TILE AND GROUT — STONES — UPHOLSTERY  
**WE DO** FLOOR REPAIRS AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

**\$20.00 OFF CARPET or UPHOLSTERY CLEANING!!**  
INCLUDES: Pre-treatment, spot treatment, no-residue rinse, rake & deodorizer as needed, truck mount hot water extraction  
**480-380-3211**  
\*discount off minimum job of \$145.00\*

**\$35.00 OFF TILE AND GROUT CLEANING!!**  
WE CLEAN TRAVERTINE STONE TOO!!!  
CALL TODAY!!!  
**480-380-3211**  
\*discount off minimum job of 260 s/f\*

**TOP-RATED DOG GROOMING**

**WOOF GANG**  
BAKERY & GROOMING  
(LOCATED AT CIRCLE CROSS)  
Your Neighborhood Pet Store

ALL-NATURAL  
Simple, clean ingredients.

HIGH-QUALITY  
Only the best for your best friend.

MADE WITH LOVE  
Baked fresh. Loved always.

WHOLESOME BITES  
Tail wags guaranteed.

85 W COMBS RD #102 SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ 85140  
404.860.1634 WOOFANGBAKERY.COM

STORE HOURS:  
MON - SAT 9AM - 7PM  
SUN 10AM - 6PM

**\$5 OFF!** RETAIL PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE!  
(Excludes Grooming Services)

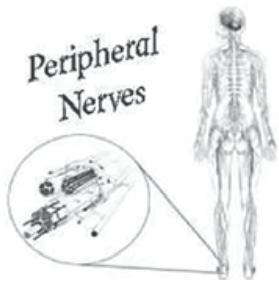
Treats, Grooming & More!  
ALL IN ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

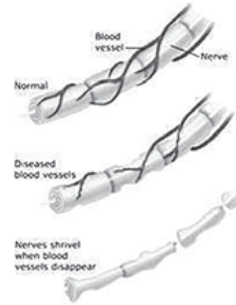
# PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

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

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



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



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

(See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article) In order to effectively treat your neuropathy three factors must be determined.

- 1) What is the underlying cause?
- 2) How much nerve damage has been sustained?

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

- 3) How much treatment will your condition require?

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

- 1) Increase blood flow

- 2) Stimulate and increase small fiber nerves

- 3) Decrease brain-based pain

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until September 30th, 2026. Call 480-796-1136** to make an appointment to determine if your chronic pain and peripheral neuropathy can be successfully treated.

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

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

**ASPEN**  
MEDICAL PLLC  
GIVING YOU HELP WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED

**480-796-1136**  
4540 E. Baseline Rd., Ste 119  
Mesa, AZ 85206

## EVIT

# EVIT acts to improve transportation issues

By Janet Perez

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The East Valley Institute of Technology has launched a new method for transporting students from nine East Valley district school campuses to its main location.

EVIT now has a two-year agreement with Windstar Lines, a charter-bus rental company, to ferry students back and forth to its Mesa campuses.

In a letter sent to EVIT Superintendent Chad Wilson, the school districts alleged that in the first week of providing transportation to students, EVIT has been using commercial rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft, and some students were being left stranded.

The letter was issued on behalf of the Queen Creek, Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Cave Creek, Apache Junction, Fountain Hills, J.O. Combs and Tempe Union school districts.

EVIT denies that it used rideshare services and instead contracted with Harbor Transportation to provide charter vans.

EVIT Superintendent Chad Wilson did concede that there was room for improvement, which led to the change.

"We started the school year off with our vans and the hope that it would be successful," Wilson said. "We weren't as efficient and as effective as we need-



EVIT has contracted with Windstar Lines to provide buses for students at several East Valley district schools who are attending the main campuses. (Courtesy EVIT)

ed to be, and so the decision was to transition now to buses."

In exchange for reducing "pass through" funding to career and technical education student satellite programs on various school campuses, EVIT agreed to foot the bill to transport students from schools to its main campuses in Mesa. Transportation had been a local district expense under past agreements.

Last fall, the districts sued EVIT when the tech school announced it was reducing the percentage of state funds it doles out to the districts for satellite programs, citing a state audit as its ra-

tionale.

Under the new deal, EVIT funding to campuses has been reduced to 76%, but EVIT agreed to absorb up to \$5 million in transportation costs to get students to its campuses.

Wilson said that EVIT had offered to reimburse the districts up to \$4 million for transporting students to Mesa but "obviously that offer was denied" as the districts worked on two inter-governmental agreements with one covering the central campus and the other dealing with the satellite campus programs.

"What I didn't want in that conver-

sation as we moved forward this idea of central campus transportation being held hostage as part of the negotiations," Wilson said.

A representative for QCUSD countered that the districts never took transportation or reimbursement off the table.

"There was language in both the IGAs that we still needed to work through, but there wasn't an outright, 'No, we're denying the \$4 million.' Up until even last week, we were asking to transport students because we know we do transportation well," said Amber Bordes, chief operating officer for QCUSD.

Also, while the districts usually had one IGA to cover the main campus and satellite programs, they felt it was now essential to have separate agreements to protect all career and technology education students regardless of where they took their courses.

"I think working through the terms of an IGA is not holding it hostage. It's coming to the table and continuing conversations until member districts were comfortable," Bordes said. "I don't feel like that's holding hostage." Read more at: [bit.ly/4ipIC6z](https://bit.ly/4ipIC6z)

Janet Perez can be reached at [jperez@iniusa.org](mailto:jperez@iniusa.org).

## EDUCATION

### PARTNERS

#### QCUSD partners help students get school essentials

As the new school year begins, the Queen Creek Unified School District is helping students start with confidence.

The QCUSD Family Resource Center, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek, recently host-

ed its annual back-to-school shopping event at Kohl's Queen Creek, according to a press release from QCUSD.

Students had the opportunity to select new clothing, shoes and other school essentials.

"QCUSD extends its sincere appreciation to the Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek, Kohl's in Queen Creek for hosting the event, and everyone who do-

nated or volunteered," the release continued. "The generosity of QCUSD's community is making a meaningful difference for families and helping ensure every student starts the school year with the tools they need to excel."

### LIBRARY

#### Creating a comfort zone

At Queen Creek Junior High, the li-

brary serves as a community gathering space where students can discover new stories and develop a deep appreciation for reading.

At the heart of that experience is library media aide Cheryl Morris, whose passion for books and dedication to helping students find the right story have inspired countless readers.

• See **Education** on page 30

# Queen Creek *Currents*

Events &  
Entertainment

*Celebrate  
Queen Creek*  
Enjoy the family fun at  
Founders' Day 2026

(Town of Queen Creek)

# Area Events

Junior Parada Parade (Town of Florence)



## Scarizona Scaregrounds

Sept. 25-Nov. 1

1901 N. Alma School Road, Mesa

Scarizona Scaregrounds features haunted attractions designed for thrill-seekers aged 12 and up. Three haunted houses including "Dr. Death's Haunted ICU," "Mayhem in the Madness" and "Startled Darkness" are designed to spook even the bravest of souls. Scarizona Scaregrounds is hosted at the Thompson Event Center, located near Loops 101 and 202 in Mesa.

## Fall Festival

Oct. 2-31

Vertuccio Farms

4011 S. Power Road, Mesa

Mesa-based Vertuccio Farms celebrates fall with its annual festival. Visit one of the Valley's longest-running corn mazes. Admission to the festival includes a ropes course, the corn maze, petting zoo, carnival games, "Barrel Train Ride" and more.

## Halloween Festival

4-8 p.m.

Oct. 24

Superstition Shadows Park

1091 W. Southern Ave., Apache Junction

This event is free to the community and is offered as a safe alternative to the traditional neighborhood trick or treating. There will be activities through-



Vertuccio Farms' Fall Festival (Vertuccio Farms)

out the night for the whole family including a costume contest, pumpkin carving contest, inflatables, kid's games, trunk or treat and much more. The annual costume contests will begin at 5 p.m. and will be divided by age groups. All ages are welcome to enter.

## Halloween Spooktacular

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Oct. 30

Dr. A.J. Chandler Park

178 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler

Gather your little ghosts and goblins and trick-or-treat your way through Downtown Chandler where you'll enjoy a family

night filled with spirited fun. The town has a "boo-nanza" of spooky shenanigans that are sure to delight ghouls and boos of all ages. Admission into the park is free.

## Florence Fright Fest

5-8 p.m.

Oct. 31

Historic Downtown Main Street, Florence

This annual free event is held on Historic Downtown Main Street and features trunk or treat spaces where kids can get candy, costume contests for children and adults, and more.

## Gilbert Days Festival & Parade

8:30-11 a.m.

Festival

4-9 p.m.

Nov. 21

Gilbert Regional Park

3005 E. Queen Creek Road, Gilbert

The town of Gilbert celebrates its community with Gilbert Days. Enjoy live music, food and drinks, shopping, and family fun. The event will feature more than 10 inflatables and backyard games at no additional charge. All activities inside the event are free.

## Junior Parada Parade

10-11 a.m.

Nov. 28

Historic Downtown, Florence

This parade celebrates Florence's Western heritage and showcases numerous riders and a variety of floats as they wind their way through Historic Downtown.

## Hometown Holiday Light Parade

5-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 4

Historic Main Street Florence

Celebrate the holiday season with family and friends in Downtown Historic Florence. This event will feature the

## Events

• From page 14

lighting of Main Street, food, inflatables, snow, music and the annual Holiday Parade.

## Holiday Program & Light Parade

3-8 p.m.

Dec. 5

Flatiron Park

100 N. Apache Trail, Apache Junction

The city of Apache Junction hosts this free holiday event. Activities include Santa, vendor booths, arts and crafts, games, music, inflatables, food, the tree lighting at the Focal Point and the annual Holiday Light Parade.

## Tumbleweed Tree Lighting Ceremony & Parade of Lights

4:30-9 p.m.

Dec. 5

Downtown Chandler  
3 S. Arizona Ave.

Behold the iconic Tumbleweed Tree, visit with Santa and enjoy musical performances and a glowing pageantry of lights. Every December brings local businesses, community organizations, families and floats together for one evening in celebration of the holidays. The Parade of Lights features hundreds of thousands of lights that bring joy and cheer to spectators of all ages.

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





## PRATT MARKETING AGENCY

### STUDIO TOUR & PODCASTING OVERVIEW

Join Charlene Bisson, CEO of Independent Newsmedia and Brent Cruikshank, INI Multimedia Advertising consultant, for an exclusive visit to the state-of-the-art pro podcast studio of Hall of Fame Personality Dave Pratt. He will walk us through the podcasting process, full-service staff, distribution plus everything you need to get started and be a pro!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**  
10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

6900 E Camelback Rd,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Suite 600

**RSVP required: [AZAds@iniusa.org](mailto:AZAds@iniusa.org)**

Park for free in front of the studios, in front of Neiman Marcus or in the Fashion Square parking garage.






## Save the Dates

### SENIOR EXPO

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

#### THE PREMIER SENIOR HEALTH & LIFESTYLE EXPOS





|                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun City • September 23, 2026 • Sundial Recreation Center                       |
| Sun City West • October 28, 2026 • SCW Foundation Center                        |
| Mesa • November 13, 2026 • Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet                           |
| Apache Junction • January 6, 2027 • Central Arizona College                     |
| Surprise • January 19, 2027 • The Colonnade                                     |
| Litchfield/Goodyear • February 17, 2027 • Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek) |
| Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club                           |
| Peoria • March 25, 2027 • Westbrook Village                                     |
| Sun City West • April 13, 2027 • SCW Foundation Center                          |
| Sun City • May 3, 2027 • Sundial Recreation Center                              |

**INTERESTED IN A SPONSORSHIP? EMAIL [AZADS@INIUSA.ORG](mailto:AZADS@INIUSA.ORG) OR CALL 888-665-3848**

# Agritainment

Garlic Fest at  
Queen Creek  
Olive Mill  
(Queen Creek  
Olive Mill)



## The Pecan Lake Farmers Market

7-11 a.m.  
Every Saturday  
Queen Creek Botanical Gardens  
25002 S. 206th St.

While parents shop, kids can play on inflatables or visit the petting zoo. Families can also tour the gardens or take gardening classes. Admission and parking are free, and the event is pet-friendly with both indoor and outdoor spaces.



The Pecan Lake Farmers Market is open every Saturday morning. (Pecan Lakes Farmers Market)

## Labor Day Grill at the Mill

11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sept. 7  
Queen Creek Olive Mill  
2062 S. Meridian Road

The Queen Creek Olive Mill will have grill-inspired specials all day. Whether you're in the mood for a burger, an Italian sausage on a roll, or a wood-fired pizza, Grill at the Mill has something to satisfy every palate.

## 13th Annual Garlic Festival

Sept. 19 & 20  
Sept. 26 & 27  
Queen Creek Olive Mill  
2062 S. Meridian Road

The Queen Creek Olive Mill's annual Garlic Festival celebrates all things garlic. The festival features a garlic-inspired menu from the Del Piero Kitchen, an



Queen Creek Family Market (Queen Creek Family Market)

array of local vendors, as well as cooking demonstrations from Queen Creek Olive Mill founder Perry Rea. Admission and parking are free.

## Pumpkin & Chili Party

Oct. 1-31  
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays  
Schnepf Farms

## 24810 S. Rittenhouse Road

The annual Pumpkin & Chili Party at Schnepf Farms brings together family fun, food, and festive activities. Watch Schnepf Farms transform into an autumn wonderland with a pumpkin patch, corn maze, rides and games, live entertainment, fireworks, and, of course, chili.

## Queen Creek Family Market

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Nov. 14 & 28

Dec. 6 & 13

Schnepf Farms

24810 S. Rittenhouse Road

Support local artisans by attending the market and buying crafted gifts, home décor, soaps, candles, clothes, kids' items and more. Food trucks and booths are on site and there will be face painting and other activities for kids. There is no entry fee and parking is free. Leashed pets are welcome.

## Christmas at Schnepf Farms

Thursday-Sunday

Nov. 27- Dec. 27

Monday-Sunday

Dec. 21-27

Schnepf Farms

24810 S. Rittenhouse Road

Schnepf Farms transforms into a winter wonderland during

• See **Agritainment** on page 17

## Agritainment

• From page 16

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

## Olivepalooza Harvest Festival

8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Jan. 9

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Jan. 10

**Queen Creek Olive Mill**

**25062 S. Meridian Road**

The Queen Creek Olive Mill kicks off milling season and celebrates the arrival of its grown estate olives. The weekend includes farm tours, Olive Oil 101 classes, gourmet vendor alley and tastings, live music and games in the grove, live cooking demos and a beer and wine garden. Admission and parking are free.



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



2025 Olivepalooza Harvest Festival (Queen Creek Olive Mill)



**Vertuccio Farms**  
Est. 1979

# FALL FESTIVAL

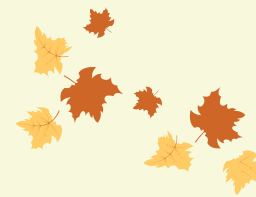
Bring the family down to the farm for our annual celebration of the beautiful autumn season during the month of October!



**October 2<sup>nd</sup> to  
October 31<sup>st</sup>**



**4011 S. Power Rd  
Mesa, AZ 85212**



Corn Maze | Pumpkin Patch | Games | Food Trucks  
Rope Course | Barrel Train Ride | Jump Pad | Petting Zoo

**FOLLOW US ON**



@vertucciofarmsaz



@vertucciofarmaz



**Details & Tickets:**

**[www.vertucciofarms.com](http://www.vertucciofarms.com)**



# Town Events & Workshops

## Family Fun Showdown

5-7 p.m.

Sept. 10

Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center

22343 E. Ryan Road

Get ready for this exciting challenge with Minute-to-Win-It games. Family Fun Showdown will feature food, games, crafts and activities for all ages. Discover more about Founders' Day while enjoying interactive challenges and hands-on fun with the whole family. RSVP online.

## Spooky Splash

3-6 p.m.

Oct. 24

Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center

22343 E. Ryan Road

Spooky Splash will feature a floating pumpkin patch, DJ and fall-themed games and activities for the whole family. Cost is \$10 per person and includes access to the event and all activities, plus one pumpkin to take home per registered participant. Register online. Children 15 and under must be accompanied by a supervising adult unless they have an active QCRAC Youth Orientation.

## Not So Spooky Halloween Party

5-8 p.m.

Oct. 24

Queen Creek Recreation &



Not So Spooky Halloween Party (Town of Queen Creek)

## Aquatic Center

22343 E. Ryan Road

Designed with all ages in mind, the night is packed with ghoulishly good activities: classic trick-or-treating, spooktacular carnival games for all ages, a chilling "Spooky House" experience and hands-on activities the whole family can enjoy. Costumes are encouraged and candy is plentiful. Register online.

## All Hallows' Eve

5-7 p.m.

Oct. 29

Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center



Founders' Day Three-Legged Race (Town of Queen Creek)

## 22343 E. Ryan Road

Stop by to enjoy snacks, light refreshments and more while supplies last. Join the spooky fun and compete in the costume contest at 6 p.m. for first-place prizes in the following categories: Overall Best Costume, Best Couple/Group Costume (two to five people) and Most Creative Costume. RSVP online.

## Puzzles & Pie

5-7 p.m.

Nov. 17

Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center

22343 E. Ryan Road

Teams of two to four will race against family and friends to complete a puzzle while enjoying pies, snacks and light refreshments. The fastest team will take home a gift card prize. Interested in joining in the fun, but don't have a team? Sign up as a free agent. RSVP online.

## Events

• From page 18

### Pancake Breakfast

9-11 a.m.

Nov. 7

Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre

20464 E. Riggs Road

Hosted by the Queen Creek Town Council, this free Pancake Breakfast will feature IHOP pancakes, Starbucks coffee, information booths, performances, a petting zoo, free flu shots, a performance from the Queen Creek Performing Arts Center and a touch-a-truck display.

### QC Recycles Drop-Off

### Event

7-11 a.m.

Nov. 14

19715 S. 220th St.

QC Recycles events are open to all town residents. Pre-registration for the November event starts on Monday, Oct. 19. Visit the recycling event website to find what items are accepted.

### Founders' Day

5-9p.m.

Sept. 19

Frontier Family Park

200039 S. 220th St.

Residents are invited to come out and celebrate Queen Creek's annual Founders' Day, a family friendly community event. Founders' Day will feature fun activities, music, eating competitions, inflatables, the Battle of the



Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting (Town of Queen Creek)

Badge relay-style races and more.

### QC Hometown Christmas Tree Lighting

6-8 p.m.

Dec. 4

Queen Creek Town Center  
21802 S. Ellsworth Road

• See Events on page 22

# 13th Annual GARLIC FESTIVAL

Weekends:

Sept. 19 - 20 &  
Sept. 26 - 27



Festival / Event:  
Garlic Festival



QUEEN CREEK  
OLIVE MILL  
ARIZONA

Free Admission | Free Parking | [QueenCreekOliveMill.com](http://QueenCreekOliveMill.com)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

 **GRILL AT THE MILL**  
LABOR DAY  
SEPT 7

 **PIZZA DATE NIGHT**  
VISIT WEBSITE FOR TICKETS  
SEPT 9, OCT 14, NOV 11, DEC 9

 **SANGRIA SOCIAL**  
FOUR SEASONAL SANGRIA FLAVORS  
OCT 17, NOV 21, DEC 19

 **OLIVEPALOOZA**  
HARVEST CELEBRATION  
JAN 9 - 10

# Arts & Entertainment

All performances take place at the Queen Creek Performing Arts Center, 22149 E. Ocotillo Road.

## Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical

**Aug. 20-22**

"Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical" centers on a teen girl who wants to spend her summer at a prestigious rock camp but can only attend if she works in the kitchen as one of the cooks.

## QC Glee

**Oct. 23 & 24**

Join local talented youth as they light up Queen Creek. The show will feature music from family favorites such as "Beetlejuice," "Addams Family," "Little Shop of Horror" and more.

## Bye, Bye Birdie

**Nov. 27-30**

It's 1960 and hip-swinging teen idol Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the army. His manager, Albert, has cooked up a plan to send him off with a new song and one last kiss from a lucky teenage fan — on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

## BYU Young Ambassadors

**7 p.m.**

**Nov. 13**

Imagine is a family-friendly production that blends theatrical, lyrical, jazz, pop and ballroom styles of choreography and music.



Performers evolve from adventurers to dreamers to rock stars through costume, music and setting transitions.

All performances take place at the Higley Center for the Performing Arts, 4132 E. Pecos Road, Gilbert.

## The Gatlin Brothers

**7:30 p.m.**

**Oct. 3**

Larry, Steve and Rudy, the Gatlin Brothers, are Grammy award-winners who have entertained audiences for the past seven decades. They have accrued a lifetime of achievements including a Grammy for Best Country Song, three ACM awards for Single of the Year, Album of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year, along with touring extensively throughout Europe, United Kingdom, North America, South America and Australia.

## An Evening with Fleet-

## wood Mask

**7 p.m.**

**Nov. 21**

Fleetwood Mask is endorsed by Fleetwood Mac founding member Mick Fleetwood. Fleetwood Mask was founded over a decade ago in tribute one of the world's greatest rock and pop bands and has been touring the U.S. every year since.

## Harriet - Trying to Get the Feeling Again: At Christmas

**7 p.m.**

**Nov. 23**

"Trying To Get The Feeling Again: At Christmas" sees Harriet perform a festive edition of her celebration of the sounds of the '70s with her live band. The show blends hits of the decade with seasonal favorites. The show features music by artists such as The Carpenters, Bread, The Eagles, Carole King, Barry Manilow, Christopher Cross and more.

## The Forgotten Carols

**2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 5**

"The Forgotten Carols" musical theater stage performance tells the story of Connie Lou, a nurse whose empty life is changed when John, a new patient she is attending, recounts the story of Christ's birth as told by little known characters in the nativity story.

All performances take place at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler except where indicated.

## Ballet Under the Stars presented by Ballet Arizona

**7 p.m.**

**Oct. 2**

### Tumbleweed Park

**2250 S. McQueen Road, Chandler**  
Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy performances that range from classical to contemporary, all set on an outdoor stage adorned with sparkling lights and beautiful costumes. Activities, community partner tables and food trucks will be available starting at 5 p.m.

## Shanghai Ballet

**7:30 p.m.**

**Oct. 23**

The internationally acclaimed Shanghai Ballet brings one of the most treasured works in classical ballet to the stage, "Giselle." A cornerstone of the Romantic ballet tradition, Giselle tells the story of a peasant girl who falls in love with a nobleman disguised as a villager. When betrayal shatters her heart, Giselle's spirit enters a mystical world where love, forgiveness and sacrifice transcend life itself.

**Sara Evans**

**7 p.m.****Oct. 25**

Multi-platinum entertainer Sara Evans is the fifth most-played female artist in country radio over the last two decades. Her five No. 1 singles include "No Place That Far," "Suds In The Bucket," "A Real Fine Place To Start," "Born to Fly," and "A Little Bit Stronger."

## One Vision of Queen featuring Marc Martel

**7:30 p.m.****Nov. 6**

Widely recognized for his vocal resemblance to Freddie Mercury, Marc Martel even provided parts of Mercury's singing voice in the 2018 biopic film "Bohemian Rhapsody." This production delivers the full-scale Queen experience — massive harmonies, soaring

guitars and the electric energy that defined one of rock's greatest bands.

## BENISE - Spanish Nights by Candlelight

**7 p.m.****Nov. 13**

Emmy Award-winning guitarist BENISE, known worldwide as "The Prince of Spanish Guitar," invites audiences on a stripped-down musical journey that showcases the heart and soul behind his productions. Surrounded by flickering candlelight, BENISE performs arrangements inspired by musical traditions from around the world.

**Tilt!****7 p.m.****Nov. 14**

In "Tilt!," Cirque Mechanics takes audiences on a high-flying journey through the magic, thrills and nostalgia of America's iconic 1980s amusement parks. Bursting acrobatics, aerial artistry, juggling and mechanical marvels, Tilt! reimagines the park experience through Cirque Mechanics' signature blend of storytelling and human-powered engineering.

## Jeffrey Osborne

**7:30 p.m.****Nov. 20**

R&B icon Jeffrey Osborne is known for his smooth vocals and energetic '80s soul hits "Stay With Me Tonight," "Only Human," and "On The Wings of Love." His musical career started in 1970

when he became the drummer of the soul band L.T.D. His solo career brought him four Grammy nominations and five gold and platinum albums.

## 40th Anniversary of The Nutcracker

**Nov. 27-29****Dec. 4-6**

Join Ballet Etudes as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of this beloved holiday tradition, "The Nutcracker." Clara's magical journey unfolds with larger-than-life mice, sparkling snow scenes, dancing treats and the radiant Sugar Plum Fairy. Filled with beautiful costumes, memorable choreography and Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this production captures the wonder and joy of the season.

Q VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [QUEENCREEKFAMILYMARKET.COM](http://QUEENCREEKFAMILYMARKET.COM)



LOCATED AT  
**SCHNEPF FARMS**

24810 E RITTENHOUSE RD,  
QUEEN CREEK, 85142

HOURS: 9am - 2pm

✓ Pet Friendly  
✓ No Entry Fee  
✓ Free Parking

FOOD TRUCKS • BAKED GOODS • CUSTOMIZABLE APPAREL • HANDMADE CRAFTS • HOME DECOR • BODY CARE • ACTIVITIES & MORE!

### MARKET DATES

**2026**NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup>DEC. 5<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>, & 19<sup>TH</sup>**2027**JAN. 9<sup>TH</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>FEB. 6<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>MAR. 6<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>APR. 3<sup>RD</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>

### EVENTS HAPPENING AT THE MARKET

NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> TURKEY & PIE RAFFLEDEC. 12<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY EVENTJAN. 9<sup>TH</sup> GALAXY DAYFEB. 6<sup>TH</sup> RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVEMAR. 6<sup>TH</sup> QC FIRE/MEDICALAPR. 17<sup>TH</sup> JEEP OFF ROAD EVENT

FOLLOW US FOR  
UPDATES!

Q QUEENCREEKFAMILY  
Q QUEEN.CREEK.FAMILY  
F QUEEN CREEK FAMILY MARKET



HEART CRY CHURCH

**Fall Festival**

*at Horseshoe Park*

OCTOBER 23, 2026 | 5PM - 8PM

**FREE!!!**

*Games - Candy - Lots of Fun!*

MUTTON BUSTIN, BOUNCE HOUSE, OBSTACLE COURSE, VELCRO WALL, MECHANICAL BULL, CARNIVAL GAMES, CHICKEN CHASE, AXE THROWING, CANDY AND MORE!

FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE

20464 E RIGGS RD QUEEN CREEK 85142 | [FALLFESTIVALAZ.COM](http://FALLFESTIVALAZ.COM)

2025+ WINNER EAST VALLEY FAVORITE

## Events

• From page 19

Kick off the holiday season with the town's Christmas tree lighting celebration.

### QC Hometown Christmas Parade

Dec. 5

10 a.m.

Town Center

21802 S. Ellsworth Road

The annual holiday parade is now a town of Queen Creek signature event. Visit Queen Creek Town Center to see your local band groups, businesses, equine groups and more stroll down Ellsworth Road. The best place to view the parade is on Ellsworth Road south of Victo-

ria Lane.

## WORKSHOPS

All of the workshops will take place at the Queen Creek Library - Zane Grey Room, 21802 S. Ellsworth Road.

### Edible Gardening in the Desert

9-11 a.m.

Sept. 26

Join master gardener Cathy Rymer and discover the secrets to planting, irrigating and growing vegetables in the desert environment. Attendees will also learn to identify garden-friendly bugs and safely manage the not-so friendly ones.

### Irrigation Design and Installation

9-11 a.m.

Oct. 17

This free class can help you learn what to look for and the questions to ask before investing in a new or updated drip or lawn irrigation system. Whether you plan on doing it yourself or hiring a professional, this class is aimed at increasing your knowledge of what goes into designing and installing a drip or lawn irrigation system.

### Water Saving Strategies for the Desert Garden

9-11 a.m.

Oct. 24

Author and horticulturist Noelle Johnson as she shares practical

strategies for creating a low-water landscape. Learn how to reduce outdoor water use — often the biggest portion of household consumption — through smart plant choices, soil improvement, microclimates, rain harvesting and more.

### Drip System Maintenance and Operation

9-11 a.m.

Nov. 7

Discover the secrets to maintaining a drip irrigation system from a local expert. Learn the essential techniques and best practices for ensuring optimal water usage and minimal waste.



Phoenix Children's

**Step Up. Stop Cancer.**

Allyson, 16



StepUpStopCancer.org

INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA



**SAVE \$350** when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.



Call 1-877-363-1321 now to **SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

- Instant shade at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more **quality time** with family and friends.
- Up to **10-Year Limited Warranty**.

FALL

# Out & About

## OUT & ABOUT IN QUEEN CREEK

Queen Creek always has a number of activities taking place. Whether the event is sponsored by the town of Queen Creek, is part of the Queen Creek Unified School District or community groups, residents enjoy coming together to celebrate and have fun. The events help to maintain Queen Creek's

small-town feel and sense of community.

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



Queen Creek Town Council Member Robin Benning, far right, thanked volunteers at the What's Poppin' event at the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center on June 2. (Town of Queen Creek)

The Queen Creek Town Council celebrated City Hall Selfie Day and America250 at the new Gail A. Barney Public Safety Support Facility at 22050 E. Queen Creek Road.



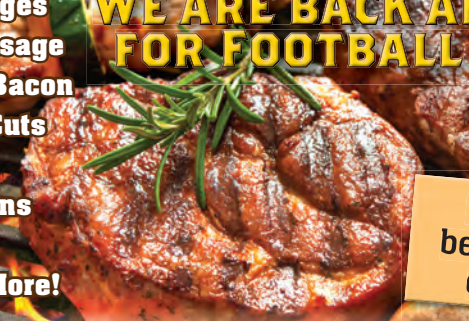


# THE PORK SHOP

**SERVING HAND CRAFTED MEAT PRODUCTS FOR 47 YEARS IN ARIZONA**

**Fresh Sausages**  
**Smoked Sausage**  
**Hand Made Bacon**  
**Fresh Pork Cuts**  
**BBQ Pork**  
**Smoked Beans**  
**Burritos**  
**Tamales & More!**

## WE ARE BACK AND READY FOR FOOTBALL SEASON!



**Let us help you  
be BBQ Champions  
every weekend**

**FREE POUND  
OF BRATS**  
With \$25 purchase.  
Limit one per customer, please.

**OPEN:**  
Tues.-Sat. 8-5pm · Sun 9-3pm  
**3359 E. Combs**  
**Queen Creek, AZ 85140**  
**(480) 987-0101**  
[theporkshopaz.com](http://theporkshopaz.com)



# Bundle & Save



**Bundling your insurance into a single package policy  
saves time and money.**

And if a storm hits and both are damaged, you'll pay one deductible. Add life insurance for your family and you could save even more. **Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® today.**

**FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Nikki Schaal**  
2509 S. Power Rd., Ste 106  
Mesa, AZ  
480.279.1874  
[nikkischaal.com](http://nikkischaal.com)



One deductible per occurrence. Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, \* 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, \*\* Western Agricultural Insurance Company, \*\* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company \*\*/West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates. \*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-PLA (10-24)

# THE SHOOTING RANGE

**FAMILY OWNED • COMMUNITY GROWN**

**20 LANES | 25 YARDS | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**



**RANGE | AMMO | GUNS  
| SILENCERS | PRIVATE AND  
GROUP CLASSES**

**LADIES SHOOT AND RENT  
FIREARMS FOR FREE ON  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAYS**

**2 FOR 1 LANE TIME  
+ FIREARM RENTAL**

**DISCOUNT VALID WITH COUPON  
STANDARD RULES APPLY**

**2 FOR 1 LANE TIME  
+ FIREARM RENTAL**

**DISCOUNT VALID WITH COUPON  
STANDARD RULES APPLY**

**480-840-9202 | WWW.THESHOOTINGRANGEAZ.COM  
18618 S 186<sup>TH</sup> WAY QUEEN CREEK , ARIZONA 85142**

**Grow with****Queen Creek  
Unified School District**

As an A-rated district, we combine academic excellence with cutting-edge innovation and technology, preparing students for the future. We believe in family, community, and shaping the future together. Queen Creek Unified School District is where students thrive, families connect, and the future begins.



Where Excellence,  
Values, & Family  
Come First.

**ENROLL NOW**  
**QCUSD.ORG**



**High Academic  
Expectations**



**Student-Centered  
Class Sizes**



**Patriotic  
Values**



**Safe Learning  
Environment**



**Family  
Focused**



**PATHS TO GREAT CAREERS**  
**CAC IS YOUR COMMUNITY'S COLLEGE!**

**FIND YOUR PATH AT CENTRALAZ.EDU**

**Your future starts here.**

For over 30 years, East Valley high school students and Phoenix-area adults have attended the East Valley Institute of Technology for hands-on training in a career field they are passionate about as they prepare to earn professional certifications, licenses, degrees, join the workforce or the military.

With 50 programs to choose from, it's easy to see why students **LOVE** attending EVIT to create their own pathway to success.

Check out the full listing of career training programs at [evit.edu/programs](http://evit.edu/programs).

Start the enrollment process at [evit.edu/enroll](http://evit.edu/enroll).

**At EVIT, it's your future, your way.**

**LEARN MORE &  
ENROLL NOV. 1**

**[evit.edu/enroll](http://evit.edu/enroll)**

**ENROLL NOV. 1**

**2027-28**

**IN 50 CAREER  
TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**your future.  
your way.**

**evit**  
COLLEGE AND CAREER  
[evit.edu](http://evit.edu) • 480-461-4000

## SPORTS



The youth basketball league for kids ages 5 to 13 begins in January (Town of Queen Creek)



League play begins in September. (Town of Queen Creek)



Registration is now open for January men's league play. (Town of Queen Creek)



Complete 250 kilometers of activity by exploring the trail system, swimming running and more. (Town of Queen Creek)

### VOLLEYBALL

#### Time to spike

Register your team for the adult co-ed volleyball league. The league, which starts on Oct. 12, runs for seven weeks with a single-elimination tournament to conclude the season. All games will be played at the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center, 22343, E. Ryan Road.

### YOUTH BASKETBALL

#### Register for kids basketball league

In this recreational league, young players will learn and improve their skills in dribbling, passing, shooting,

defense and more. Players ages 5 to 13 will be put on teams by age divisions. Each team will have a seven-week season with a scheduled practice and game each week. All practices and games will be held at the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center, 22343 E. Ryan Road. The league begins the week of Jan. 12.

### ADULT SOFTBALL

#### Join men's, co-ed softball league

Recreational softball leagues for adults ages 18 and older. The league, which starts on Sept. 28, is eight weeks long. In weeks one through seven, each

team will play a doubleheader. During the eighth week, there will be an end of the season single-elimination tournament. Registration is first-come, first-served for full teams only. Games will be played at the ballfields at Frontier Family Park, 20039 S. 220 St.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

#### Summer basketball league starts soon

Team registration for the January men's basketball season is currently open. The league runs for seven weeks with a single elimination tournament to conclude the season. League play begins on Jan. 11. All games will be

played at the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center, 22343, E. Ryan Road.

### CHALLENGE

#### Take on the America 250 Challenge

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary by taking on a personal athletic challenge. The town of Queen Creek is inviting residents and visitors to complete 250 kilometers by exploring the trail system, walking or running at the Queen Creek Recreation and Aquatic Center track or swimming laps at the aquatic center pool from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.



Menu



- Wood-Fired Pizzas
- Handcrafted Pasta
- Savory Entrees
- Italian Pastries, Gelato & Coffee
- Italian Deli

**Authentic Italian Cuisine, Made Fresh Daily!**  
**Where Every Bite Tells a Story of Italy**

**Board & Bottle \$35**

**ALL DAY ON MON. & TUES**

Guests receive their choice of 4 bruschettas and an entire bottle of wine.

(\$54 value! Only valid with offer.)

**\$5 Martini Thursday**

**ON SELECT MARTINIS:**

Dirty Martini, Vesper, Botanical Martini, Espresso Martini, Lemon Drop Martini, Cosmopolitan. (\$15 value! Only valid with offer.)



**1042 N Higley Rd • 480-534-7673 • AModoMioCucinaItaliana.com**

(SW corner of Higley & Brown in Bashas Shopping Plaza) • **Open 7 days a week!** • **HAPPY HOUR 3-5pm Everyday**

# TSR THE SHOOTING RANGE

**FAMILY OWNED • COMMUNITY GROWN**  
**20 LANES | 25 YARDS | OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**RANGE | AMMO |  
 GUNS  
 | SILENCERS |  
 CLASSES**

**2 FOR 1 LANE TIME  
 + FIREARM RENTAL**

DISCOUNT VALID WITH COUPON  
 STANDARD RULES APPLY



**LADIES SHOOT AND  
 RENT FIREARMS FOR  
 FREE ON TUESDAY AND  
 THURSDAYS**

**480-840-9202 | WWW.THESHOOTINGRANGEAZ.COM**  
**18618 S 186<sup>TH</sup> WAY QUEEN CREEK, ARIZONA 85142**



## Build Your Own Feast

featuring **Lemon Bar STREUSEL**

Get a Medium Specialty Pizza,  
 Medium 1-topping Pizza, and our  
**Lemon Bar Streusel.**

Available for a limited time.

**\$34.99**

Make 'em Larges for \$10 More!



**FREE  
 DESSERT**  
 with Medium,  
 Large or Jumbo  
 Pizza Purchase

Not Available Online  
 Coupon Code: 0C7010  
 Eat-In, Carryout or Delivery. Not valid with any other offer  
 or coupons. Limited delivery area and times. Delivery Extra.  
 Valid only at participating locations. Expires 11/30/26.

**LARGE**  
 1-Topping Pizza,  
 Cheesesticks\*  
 & Dessert for  
**\$29.99**

Not Available Online  
 Coupon Code: 0C7009  
 \*Small size Cheesesticks only  
 Eat-In, Carryout or Delivery. Not valid with any other offer  
 or coupons. Limited delivery area and times. Delivery Extra.  
 Valid only at participating locations. Expires 11/30/26.

**22485 E Queen Creek Road, Ste 101 | Queen Creek, AZ | 480.463.1099**



**\$5 OFF \$25 Purchase**  
 Cannot be combined  
 with other offers.

**6 Convenient Locations!**

### QUEEN CREEK

20911 E. Rittenhouse Rd  
 480-912-4011

### MESA

1902 N Higley Rd,  
 480-590-6151

### SAN TAN VALLEY

40615 N Gantzel Rd #103  
 480-664-1614

### GILBERT

894 E. Warner Rd. Ste 101  
 (480) 207-7295

### CHANDLER 1

2990 E. Germann Rd.  
 (480) 758-4040

### CHANDLER 2

4991 S. Alma School Rd.  
 (480) 572-1247



**Sunday Family  
 PICNIC**

Available Sundays only. Dine in or take out. 11 am to 7pm

**ONLY \$49!!!**

1/2 lb brisket • 1/2 lb pork  
 1/2 slab ribs • 4 buns  
 2 pints sides (your choice)

**Lunch Special**

**1 Sandwich**

(Pork, Brisket, Turkey or Sausage)

**1 Side**

(Mac, Slaw, Beans, Chili, Potato Salad)

**1 Drink**

(Fountain, Rootbeer, Sarsaparilla or Bottle Water)

**All for \$14.00**

Weekdays from 11am to 4pm



**Voted Best BBQ in Queen Creek**



23670 S Power Rd  
 Ste. 101, Queen Creek,  
**480-988-6451**  
 woodbarnbbq.com

**Hours**  
 11:00 am - 07:00 pm



**Don't forget to pre-order your  
 LABOR  
 DAY MEAL!**  
 before it's gone!  
**Voted Best in the Valley**

# Classes

• From page 1

tion of a two-hour safety course.

“One the best things that we did in this entire code was a process to impound the offending bikes if they actually violated portions of town code and slow things down and then bring accountability into place with the parent and the juvenile involved,” Queen Creek Police Department Chief Randy Brice said told members of the Queen Creek Town Council at a recent meeting.

Some parents are already asking if their kids can take the course even if their devices have not been impounded in order to be proactive about safety, something the department welcomes and encourages.

QCPD has also added a service where any resident who has purchased or is thinking about purchasing a motorized device can make an appoint-



**QCPD Chief Randy Brice updates the council on the effects a new ordinance is having on incidents involving e-bikes and other motorized devices. (Town of Queen Creek)**

ment with police staff to help them determine if the device is legal and whether insurance, registration and driver’s license are necessary.

Word on the growing popularity of the safety course came while Brice informed the council about a noticeable drop in complaints involving e-bikes and other motorized devices since the new ordinance was passed in the spring.

In May, the council unanimously voted to prohibit the use of e-bicycles and other motorized devices in town parks, establish a specific process for impoundments, set a 15-mph speed

limit on sidewalks, multiuse pathways/trails and parking lots, and require hands-free operation of phones and other cellular devices by riders.

Over 56 days before and after the ordinance was passed, Brice said e-bike and juvenile-related disturbance calls fell 34% town-wide from 250 to 165.

Comparing the first quarter of 2025 to the first quarter of this year, such calls increased by 94% from 247 to 478.

“What we’re looking at was high-conflict areas where we had lots of people, high-speed riding, some reckless riding as well, but in areas where it was mainly meant for other things,” Brice said. “We even had incidents where there would start to be conflicts — actually assaults — and disorderly conduct and fights between youth and adults in various areas ... the result really is that families were complaining. They were leaving that space. They weren’t coming around.”

Brice showed the council a video in

• See **E-bikes** on page 29

**VERO**  
CHICAGO PIZZA

**LUNCH HOURS**  
Wed - Sun: 12pm - 4pm

**25% OFF**  
**ONE PIZZA**  
WHEN YOU PLACE  
A PICK-UP ORDER  
ONLINE OR IN-STORE

\*Must present coupon at time of pickup  
for redemption, online use code below

**QC25PZZA**

\* ONLY VALID AT THE QUEEN CREEK VERO  
CHICAGO PIZZA LOCATION - CANNOT USE  
COUPON WITH ANY OTHER OFFER -  
\*VALID THROUGH 12/31/2026\*

**NOT VALID FOR DINE-IN**

**CHICAGO'S BEST  
RIGHT HERE IN  
THE VALLEY.**

★ 2025 ★

**WINNER  
EAST VALLEY  
FAVORITES**

INDEPENDENT  
YourValley.net

**Visit Us @ Queen Creek**  
18423 E San Tan Blvd  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

**WELCOME to  
DELICIOUS**

**Culver's**

**CULVER'S OF QUEEN CREEK ON OCOTILLO RD.**  
140 W. Ocotillo Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85140

**CULVER'S OF QUEEN CREEK ON ELLSWORTH RD.**  
23651 S Ellsworth Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

**BOGO\***  
**MEDIUM SHAKE**  
\*BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Culver's of Queen Creek

**\$1 OFF**  
**VALUE BASKET**

Culver's of Queen Creek

**2 FOR \$10**  
**DOUBLE DELUXE  
BUTTERBURGERS**

Culver's of Queen Creek

## E-bikes

• From page 28

which a person riding a type of motorized bike at about 32 mph struck a bicycle rider. The person on the motorized bike left the scene of the accident turning it into a serious crime.

The flashpoints for incidents were generally occurring in the town's parks. In the 56 days before and after the ordinance went into effect, police said there was a 34% drop in e-bike and juvenile-related disturbance calls at Frontier Family Park. Desert Mountain Park saw a drop of 78%, and Mansel Carter Oasis Park saw an 80% decrease in calls.

"Mansel Carter was really the genesis of most of the issues," Brice said. "I will say anecdotally from my partners in the region, we have seen a lot of the offenders that were coming here are now back in their own cities and towns and doing the same thing they were



Queen Creek police said parks were the flashpoint for e-bike and juvenile-related disturbances. (QCPD)

doing here because we have the right code in place."

Under the new ordinance, e-bikes and motorized devices can only be operated in the park's designated roadways and parking lots for entrance and exit. If an operator wants to take their e-bike to another area of a park the bike

must be walked or carried to the location.

The 15-mph speed limit takes away the guesswork police must put in to determine whether an e-bike is a class 1, 2 or 3, especially when people are modifying less powerful bikes to make them faster.

The ordinance also set up a specific process for police to impound and release e-bikes and other motorized devices. Impoundments would focus on incidents of reckless operation, disregarding traffic controls and riding in prohibited areas.

In passing the ordinance, the council was adamant that it did not want to discourage kids from going outdoors and riding their e-bikes or escalating situations.

"We love to see our youth outdoors and being active away from screens and all of that. But, it's very nice to see our parks being used for their intended purposes, as well as keeping our e-bikers safe," Mayor Julia Wheatley said. "I just really appreciate that slow roll approach of starting with education."

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



# two maids

A Maid Service Worth Talking About

SUMMER SPECIAL

## \$100 OFF

### Recurring Cleaning

(\$20 off first 5 visits) Offer expires 10-30-26.

## \$150 OFF

### Deep Clean or Move In/ Move Out Clean

First time customers only. One time use with coupon. Offer expires 10-30-26.



Let Life Shine

License #00825-2018

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US #1 HOUSE CLEANING!

480-550-8282 • TwoMaidsCleaning.com

## RELIGION

### FAMILY

#### Saturday Nights at Rock Point

Rock Point Church, 24759 S. Power Road, hosts Saturday Nights at Rock Point, offering waterslides, bounce houses and games every first and third Saturday. On other Saturdays, the church has other activities planned for families, plus a food truck each weekend. Saturday Nights at Rock Point run from 4 to 7 p.m.

### MEETINGS

#### Heart Cry Church offers meetings for adults and kids

Heart Cry Church, 9339 W. Hunt Highway, holds a Celebrate Recovery meeting every Friday. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program aimed at all “hurts, habits and hang-ups,” the church’s website states. The meetings run from 7 to 9 p.m.

The church also offers events for kids. The Collective Youth program hosts students in grades sixth-12th, Wednesday nights. There are games, bible study and youth-led worship from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For younger kids, there is Wednesday Night Worship and Workshops.



Veterans can meet other veterans at Central Christian Church. (Central Christian Church Facebook page)

The workshops cater to kids from kindergarten to fifth grade offering worship, workshops, games and more. Wednesday Night Worship and Workshops run from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

### SENIORS

#### Single seniors social group at Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 20615 E. Ocotillo Road, offers a Single Senior Social Group Ministry. The ministry provides fellowship, compassion and friendship to single seniors. The group plays cards and other games starting at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays. Ministry meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each

month, followed by games. For more information contact Gail Biesen, 480-999-8744.

Join the Abundant Grace Women’s Ministry on Sept. 19 for a Blessed Brunch in Highberger Hall featuring guest speaker Anita Romero. Women of all ages and stages of life are warmly invited to gather for a special time of fellowship, encouragement, and connection. Tickets are \$10 per person. Please RSVP and submit payment by Thu, Sep 17.

### NEIGHBORS

#### Nogales trip offers insight

Central Christian Church, 22505 E. Ocotillo Road, offers AZ Beyond the Border, which invited parishioners to ponder the question, who is

my neighbor? From Oct. 24 to Oct. 27, attendees will spend four days and three nights in Nogales, entering real places and meeting real people whose stories bring this question to life.

“This is not a political trip. It’s a pilgrimage of proximity. You will spend time with families seeking safety, play with children at shelter sites, share meals, and see firsthand the work of the Kino Border Initiative,” according to the church’s website. For information, email [tyler.girtman@centralaz.com](mailto:tyler.girtman@centralaz.com).

### GIVING

#### Community donation drive

Each month, Sun Valley Community Church - Queen Creek, 20271 E. Rittenhouse Road, collects items to benefit local partners within the community. Supplies can be dropped off at the campus on the second weekend of each month during all weekend services. The donations of water bottles and non-perishable foods will go to the Father McGivney Food Bank in Queen Creek.

*To publicize your church’s meetings and events, please email [jperez@iniusa.org](mailto:jperez@iniusa.org).*

### Education

• From page 12

Morris has helped create an environment where students feel comfortable spending time before school and during lunch. Whether they’re working on homework, putting together a puzzle, or reading, students are encouraged to make the library their own. Read more: [bit.ly/4xTs4bE](http://bit.ly/4xTs4bE)

### HONOR

#### Elementary school earns special certification

Brain Balance, a new resource

for families seeking support in cognitive, behavioral and academic development for their children, has officially opened in Queen Creek.

By embodying its motto of “everyone has genius, and everyone can be a leader,” Katherine Mecham Barney Elementary has earned its Lighthouse Certification through the national Leader in Me program.

Schools that earn this certification demonstrate “a high level of leadership and academic achievement that extends beyond staff to students and the community,” according to a press release from the Queen Creek Unified School District.

Recently, the school held a Light-house assembly to “celebrate with all of our students and staff that we are a model Leader in Me school,” Principal Dawn Harrington stated. Read more: [bit.ly/4zAKboj](http://bit.ly/4zAKboj)

### BOOKS

#### Book vending machine installed at school

Students at Desert Mountain Elementary have a book vending machine thanks to a program that allows them to have a say in the school’s budget.

Last year, DME students in the Lead Out Loud Club voted to use

their participatory budget to offer fellow students a book vending machine for their campus. The student body gave the idea a thumbs up.

Through participatory budgeting, students learn civic responsibility and how to think beyond themselves.

“The cool thing about the student participatory budgeting process is that our students came up with all the ideas for all the rest of our Coyotes to vote on, and then the students ultimately decide,” DME Principal Amber Allen stated in a Queen Creek Unified School District press release. Read more: [bit.ly/3U5yBSd](http://bit.ly/3U5yBSd)



The Queen Creek Town Council stands at a marker commemorating the town's purchase of more than 1 million acre-feet of water from Harquahala Valley basin. (Town of Queen Creek)

## Water

• From page 5

the Queen Creek Town Council received an update on the next steps in building the infrastructure to transport the Harquahala water and the quest to become a designated water provider.

The Harquahala water infrastructure plan is three pronged. First, the town has 21 wells assigned for transportation use on the north side of the Harquahala Valley. The second prong is making sure Central Arizona Project water quality standards are met, as well as constructing any treatment infrastructure needed at a central location. Finally, a pipeline will be constructed under the I-10 and across Bureau of Land Management land to move the water to the CAP canal, according to a staff report. Read more: [bit.ly/3S7B-d1h](https://bit.ly/3S7B-d1h)

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

### Town preparing plan to improve safety for drivers

The annual number of vehicle crashes is dropping — and Queen Creek officials want to make sure that continues.



Statistics show that 36% of all crashes in Queen Creek are speed related. Queen Creek is developing a safety action plan for motorists. (Town of Queen Creek)

The town is in the process of creating a safety action plan that identifies specific strategies particularly aimed at reducing the number of fatal and serious injury crashes.

In 2025, the town saw 1,264 crashes compared with 1,333 in 2024. In 2024, the town recorded two crashes that resulted in fatalities and 28 that caused serious injuries. Last year, there were four fatal crashes and 21 with serious injuries.

Between 2021 and 2025, there were 25 fatal crashes and 123 with serious injuries. Read more: [bit.ly/4geh1E6](https://bit.ly/4geh1E6)

## SHADE SCREENS • ROLL SHADES • RAIN GUTTERS



ARMADILLO, LLC  
DBA

**A1 Seamless Gutters**

- New Installation
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Reconfigure
- Sunscreens and Roll Shades

**SunTex. 80/90**  
BY PHIFER

**SCREENS:**  
**480-883-9255**

[sunscreens-armadillo.com](https://sunscreens-armadillo.com)

Licensed Bonded Insured ROC 195034 ROC 322703

**GUTTERS:**  
**480-570-1011**

[a-1seamlessraingutter.com](https://a-1seamlessraingutter.com)

Do your employees understand their health insurance?

Do you have HR at your fingertips?

Are you aware of compliance laws?

Do you regularly hear from your broker?

If you answered **NO** to any of these questions then it's time to experience...

**The A and H Difference!**

**A and H Insurance**



*Grace Daidone*  
Benefits Specialist  
[gDaidone@aandhins.com](mailto:gDaidone@aandhins.com)  
(480) 454-3005

HEALTH & LIFE BENEFITS PROGRAMS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES



**Reliable help when you need it.**

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



**home instead.**

**(480) 827-4343 | [homeinstead.com/195](https://homeinstead.com/195)**

Each Home Instead® office is an independently owned and operated franchise of Home Instead, Inc., an Honor Company.  
© 2024 Home Instead, Inc.

## Cookies

• From page 1

cause I didn't want to do more school," she said. "I was ready to get in the workforce and just start my life and be independent."

She began a four-year stint working remotely as a researcher for a New York-based fashion forecasting trend company, but the kitchen kept calling.

"I grew up baking with my grandparents, and that was always just a fun thing I did with them. During COVID I was really just baking a lot because there wasn't a whole lot to do and I was really enjoying it and I never stopped," she said. "Then I thought, 'Could I make this into, you know, a living?'"

Silver's creations took on a new dimension after she moved near the Queen Creek Olive Mill.

"I started experimenting with olive oil instead of butter in these cookies, and I had a really good reaction to that. I use their vanilla olive oil in pretty much any recipe that I use olive oil in," she said. "I started experimenting with some of their citrus oils as well, such as the Valencia Orange olive oil and then the Myer Lemon oil. Then last Christmas I started making a hot cocoa cookie with their dark chocolate oil."

She began, and still does, sell the cookies at various farmers' markets and on her website, georgiescookies.com, as well as being a supplier for some businesses.

"However, I can't make an entire living off just selling cookies. My dad and I, who helps me with the business, kind of started thinking this would be great for other people to do, but some people just don't know how to follow measurements, or they are very intimidated by it. So, we kind of came up with the idea of doing prepackaged cookie mixes. Everything's pre-measured out and included in the kit, and so you're just following the instructions and putting everything into a bowl and just kind of mixing everything together," she said.

Silver bakes her cookies in her home, but the packaged mixes are created and assembled in a commercial kitchen.

The kits, which can be purchased on her website and at the Queen Creek Olive Mill, come in two varieties. One contains all dry ingredients — flour, baking powder, sugar — and consumers are tasked with adding the "wet" ingredients that need to be mixed in.

"In other places, we actually sell the oil in the



**Queen Creek resident Isabella Silver is the founder of Georgie's Cookies. (Submitted)**

kit, and that's in a little bag that has a seal on it. That's already pre-measured out, and the back of the box tells you when to pour the oil into the mix," Silver said.

Along with her website and the Queen Creek Olive Mill, Silver also sells her creations at the Eastmark Farmers Market in Mesa and from fall through spring at the Mint Market, 7729 E. Pecos Road in Queen Creek, and Agritopia in Gilbert.

Silver also has a distributor in Tempe that ships her products throughout the state, and she has signed onto a wholesale website. Meanwhile, a shop in Pennsylvania and an olive oil retailer in Manassas, Virginia, are also carrying her products.

Emily Thomson, who owns Manassas Olive Oil Company, discovered Silver's products on the wholesale site Faire and thought the dry mixes would be a great fit for her business.

"I've made some before and put them out for people to try and people really liked them," Thomson said. "Using the olive oil makes it makes a healthier cookie. It just gives it nice texture



**Isabella Silver named her company after her rescue dog Georgie. (Submitted)**

and they're fluffy and they're not overly sweet. They're really, really nice cookies."

Silver's family helps out in various capacities, particularly as taste testers.

"If they don't like something, then I'm not going to even try selling that. If they like it, then it will go to the markets, and I'll see how well (the cookies) do there," she said.

Her biggest assist comes from her father.

"He retired and he was building a lot of Lego model cars, and I realized that I could not do this by myself at all. So, he kind of volunteered himself and then I kept him on board. I definitely wouldn't be able to do any of this without him," Silver said.

By the way, Georgie's Cookies is not named after her father, Steve Silver. It's named after the dog that she rescued from a shelter 11 years ago.

"People will ask, 'Is that Georgie?' No, that's just Steve. Georgie's my dog. I have a little picture that I set up now at the markets," Silver said. "I got her when I was 18. I never wanted to name anything after me. It felt kind of weird, and I really love my dog, so I figured why not Georgie's Cookies?"

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



**METRIX ACCOUNTING**  
Your Small Business Partner.



Certified Public Accountant  
Bookkeeping and Tax Services  
Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A)



Kimberly Hiatt, CPA



Website

**New bookkeeping clients: Get your first month of service for FREE!**

New monthly bookkeeping clients only. Does not include clean-up services. Mention this ad before or during consultation. Valid for 30 days from publication.

**480.818.0973**  
**www.MetrixAccounting.com**



*Your Queen Creek*  
**REAL ESTATE EXPERT**  
*Local Knowledge. Personal Service. Proven Results*



*Proud to call Queen Creek home!*

I CAN HELP YOU:

 BUY

 SELL

 INVEST

**Sue Ness**  
Your Trusted Real Estate Advisor

602.739.2995  
sue@jcrealtyaz.com  
sueness.jcrealtyaz.com

**FREE**  
Home Value Analysis  
Scan to find out what your home is worth.



# AVOID PROBATE

**FREE 1-HOUR ESTATE PLANNING CONSULTATION WITH AN ATTORNEY**



Professional • Affordable • Convenient



**Our locally-owned firm helps you:**

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

**Flat-rate pricing. No surprises.**

**Don't wait.**  
**Get peace of mind TODAY.**  
**MOBILE SERVICE AVAILABLE**

**MESA OFFICE**  
**480-605-7000**  
1145 S. Power Rd, Suite 104  
Mesa, AZ 85206

**CHANDLER OFFICE**  
**480-470-7000**  
1095 W. Queen Creek Rd, Suite 4  
Chandler, AZ 85248

**walkinwills.com**

## A BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

## A lasting legacy.

**PLANNING TODAY BRINGS PEACE OF MIND TOMORROW.**

At San Tan Memorial Gardens at Schnepf Farms, we help families create meaningful goodbyes and lasting tributes in a serene, park-like setting—because every life deserves to be remembered.



**FAMILY OWNED. LOCALLY ROOTED. HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY since 2013.**

**COMPASSIONATE CARE. COMPLETE OPTIONS.**



**BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS**  
Meticulously maintained landscapes with a peaceful lake, shade trees and scenic surroundings.



**MAUSOLEUM & NICHES**  
Climate-controlled mausoleum with crypts and niches for lasting remembrance.



**BURIAL & CREMATION**  
Ground burial, cremation burial, and ossuary options to honor your loved one's wishes.



**MONUMENTS & MARKERS**  
In-house monument specialists to create a tribute that stands the test of time.



**PRE-PLANNING MADE EASY**  
Personalized planning support and flexible payment options available.

*We're here for you.*

Whether you're planning ahead or need immediate assistance, our caring team is here to help every step of the way.



**San Tan MEMORIAL GARDENS**  
at Schnepf Farms

**HONORING LIFE. CELEBRATING LEGACY.**  
*Serving Generations.*

22425 E Cloud Rd  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
(480) 987-2488  
SanTanMemorial.com



**LEARN MORE TODAY**  
Scan the QR code to learn more about our options and how we can help.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED ADS

VISIT US @ [iniusa.org/classifieds](http://iniusa.org/classifieds) | EMAIL US: [azads@iniusa.org](mailto:azads@iniusa.org) | OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## EMAILS

[azads@iniusa.org](mailto:azads@iniusa.org)  
[legals@iniusa.org](mailto:legals@iniusa.org)

To place your ad call us at

**888-665-3848**

## AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

**\$20** per market - 30 words  
 Your ad appears in the newspaper  
 of choice plus online  
 \$5<sup>00</sup> for color and each additional photo  
 25¢ extra per additional word

## BUSINESS/SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES

Starting at **\$45**  
 for one column by three-inch advertisement  
 \$15<sup>00</sup> per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)  
 Logo and photos included  
 4-weeks minimum

## EMPLOYMENT ADS

Starting at **\$45**  
 for one column by three-inch advertisement  
 \$15<sup>00</sup> per inch after (maximum size 8.55 inches)  
 Logo and photos included  
 No minimum commitment requirement

## Employment

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

## Gutters

**RAIN GUTTER EXPRESS**  
 Quality Products & Service  
 • Seamless 5" & 6" Gutter Installation  
 • Custom Fabrication  
 • Cleaning, Restoring & Repair  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
[www.RainGutterExpress.com](http://www.RainGutterExpress.com)  
**602-300-7472**  
 LICENSED  
 BONDED • INSURED  
 ROC#347844

LOOK  
 NO FURTHER  
 SELL IT HERE  
 888-665-3848  
 To place your ad.

## Health Care

The World's First Hearing Aids  
 With Touchscreen Controls.  
 No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call **844-915-3543** to get your 45-day risk free trial.

Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.  
 Hearing modes for any environment.  
 Multiple models to choose from.  
 Portable charging case.  
 48-hour battery life.  
 UV cleaning.  
 Background noise cancellation.  
 45-day risk free trial.

**Atom X**

Audien Hearing

## Home Improvement

**Tewa Builds**  
 Fine Cabinets and Woodworking

QUALITY WORK GUARANTEED

We Provide These Services  
 • Built-in cabinetry and shelving  
 • Door installation and repair  
 • Custom woodworking  
 • Door and window trim  
 • Crown molding  
[tewabuilds.com](http://tewabuilds.com)  
 ROC# 34121  
**480-332-2187**  
[info@tewabuilds.com](mailto:info@tewabuilds.com)

HONEST ESTIMATES

## Landscaping

**JULY AZ LANDSCAPING**  
 PAVER PATIOS & WALKWAYS  
 FIRE PITS & DESERTSCAPES  
 TREE & PALM TRIMMING & STUMP GRINDING  
 LAWN CARE

10% OFF

FREE ESTIMATES

480-386-3954

SCAN ME!

## Painting

**CRAIG ALLEN PAINTING**

Exterior/Interior  
 Drywall Repairs  
 Epoxy Floors

Free No Pressure Estimate!

Owner Operated  
 Licensed-Bonded-Insured-ROC #330199  
**480-221-7375**  
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## Remodeling

**KITCHENS & BATHS SINCE 2007**

**480-420-9188**

FREE Design Consultations +  
 3D Color Renderings

[BulldogKitchenandBath.com](http://BulldogKitchenandBath.com)

ROC #329447

## Roofing

**HARDACKER ROOFING**  
 Doing Business Since 2005

We Do:  
 • Complete Re-Roof • Tile & Shingle  
 • Repairs • Coatings • Foam  
 • Metal • Free Estimates

**It's Monsoon Season!**

**602.358.8458**  
 Lic #209598  
 Bonded & Insured

Read the News

at  
[iniusa.org/classifieds](http://iniusa.org/classifieds)

Daily news  
 you know  
 you can  
 trust.

**DAILY INDEPENDENT**  
 at YourValley.net

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

Edward Jones®

&gt; edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

# JOIN US FOR Dinner & insights

Thursday, September 10 | 5 – 6 p.m.

## SEMINAR:

## Social Security: Unlock its potential

**SPEAKER:** Robbie Van Riper  
Hartford Funds

**LOCATION:** Edward Jones  
2919 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite 129  
Mesa, AZ, 85212

## COMPLIMENTARY DINNER WILL BE SERVED

To reserve a space for yourself and a guest  
please call 480-931-3565



## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### New law raises Social Security income for some

In January 2025, the Social Security Fairness Act effectively increased Social Security retirement benefits for nearly 3 million Americans who previously were penalized because of pensions they received. Those impacted have already been notified.

If you're among them, you have likely received a retroactive lump sum payment and will see an increase in your monthly Social Security retirement checks.

This money could help you achieve some of your important financial goals – so you'll want to think carefully about how you'll use it.

- **You could pay off some debts.** The lower your debt load, the better your cash flow.
- **Or you might want to contribute to a college savings vehicle,** such as a 529 plan, for your children or grandchildren.

A financial professional can recommend ways of using the money to help you meet your goals.

*For details, visit the Social Security website at [ssa.org](https://ssa.org) and scroll down to the Social Security Fairness Act.*



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



**James M. Hundley**  
AAMS®  
Financial Advisor  
480-931-3565



**Justin J. Grimes**  
Financial Advisor  
480-931-3774



**Ben Franklin**  
Financial Advisor  
480-931-3566



# WESTERN STATES

AC • HEAT • PLUMBING • INDOOR AIR QUALITY

HEATING

PLUMBING

COOLING

**QUALITY INSTALLATIONS.**

*Service you can Trust.*

## 602-517-0375

Licensed, Bonded, Insured. ROC 342520, 349214



**10 YEAR WORRY FREE GUARANTEE**  
ON NEW UNIT INSTALLATIONS

Disclaimer: Some restrictions apply, limited time only, call for details.



**FREE SECOND OPINION**  
ON MAJOR REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENT

Not sure about the quote from the other guys?



**GIVE US A CALL AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A FREE SECOND OPINION**

Disclaimer: Please mention this coupon when scheduling second opinion visit. Limited time only.



**4.9 Stars | 1,500+ Reviews**

**Scan for  
FREE Quote or  
Schedule Service**

**NEW HVAC  
SYSTEMS**  
as low as  
**\$99/mo**

*Lifetime workmanship guarantee  
on all new unit installations*



## SUPPORT



**50%**

**OF PROCEEDS DONATED TO  
HELP KIDS FIGHTING CANCER**

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



**\$39 TUNE UP**

**Benefits of A/C  
System Tune Up:**

- Extends Lifespan of the System
- Improves Energy Efficiency
- Prevents Expensive Repairs