



Neighbors
Teen fighting
cancer through
golf; **12**

 SCOTTSDALE
INDEPENDENT



Competition
Police dogs to
show off skills at
West World; **20**

October 21, 2026 Volume 38 Issue 20

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Scottsdale to continue using Flock cameras

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

It looks like Scottsdale will continue to use automatic license plate readers, but with greater “guardrails” on their use.

The city council voted unanimously during its Oct. 6 meeting to direct staff to draw up a city ordinance with stricter controls on the use of ALPRs, including criminalizing abuses of the system by individuals and requiring the city auditor’s office to audit the system annually.

The new city ordinance will be presented to the city council for a vote during its Dec. 1 meeting.

City Councilwoman Solange Whitehead, who made the motion of the new ordinance, said “the idea of being monitored is scary” but she sees the value of the ALPRs.

“Like most of you, I had a visceral reaction to the abuses that we read about suddenly and really to a loss of trust... but we’re trying to take a measured approach,” she said. “As another speaker said we are elected to solve

• See **Cameras** on page 30

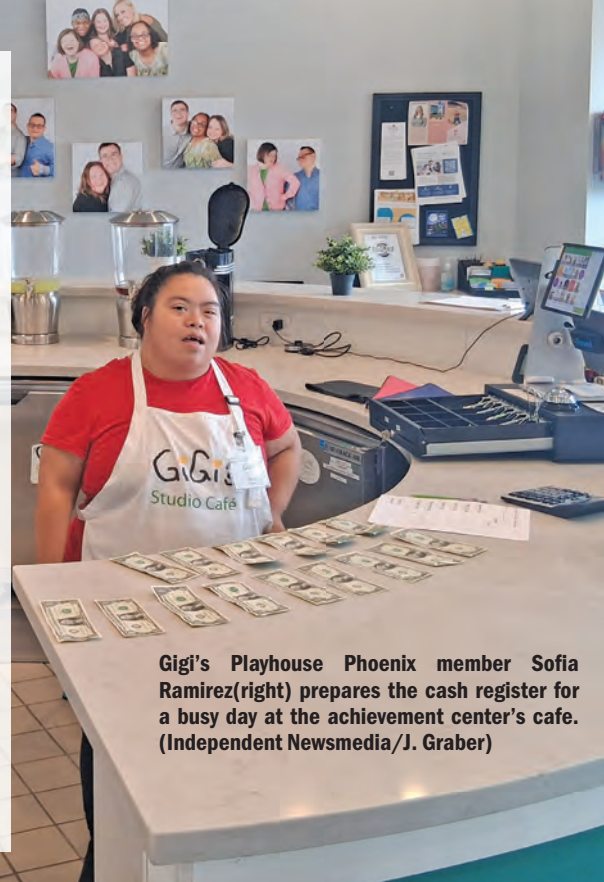
Gigi’s Playhouse in Scottsdale offers those with Down syndrome skills, camaraderie

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Chris Mays knows what’s wrong with the world. “The world needs more people with Down syndrome,” said Mays, the executive director of Gigi’s Playhouse Phoenix, which is actually located in Scottsdale.

“When you’re talking to somebody with Down syndrome, they’re going to tell you exactly what they’re thinking and what they’re feeling,” Mays said. “I love that because if you’re doing something good, they’re going to tell you. If you’re doing something they don’t like, they’re going to tell you ... I think they’re the an-

• See **Gigi’s** on page 31



Gigi’s Playhouse Phoenix member Sofia Ramirez(right) prepares the cash register for a busy day at the achievement center’s cafe. (Independent Newsmedia/J. Graber)



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FIRST RESPONDERS

Scottsdale joins lawsuit against fire truck manufacturers

Experts claim anticompetitive mergers have inflated costs, caused substantial delays of critical fire fighting equipment

By Philip Haldiman & J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Scottsdale has joined with seven other Arizona cities and towns suing firetruck manufacturers from around the country, accusing them of monopolizing the industry and killing off any competition.

The suit claims five firetruck manufacturers as well as the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association and the private equity firm American Industrial Partners have sought to choke off competition in the market through a series of mergers and acquisitions for more than a decade and then hiked prices more than 100%.

Scottsdale's complaint quotes Edward Kelly, general president of the International Association of Fire Fighters as saying, "In hindsight (the pandemic) was masking what ends up being a main driver of higher costs and lag times in production: the monopolizing of firetruck and ambulance manufacturing in the United States."

Scottsdale's complaint says the American Industrial Partners masterminded the monopolization effort, though the company said in a statement sent to Independent Newsmedia that it "disagrees with the allegations in the complaint and intends to



The City of Scottsdale has joined a lawsuit claiming firetruck manufacturers, the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association and the private equity firm American Industrial Partners have conspired to create a monopoly in the firetruck industry and hike prices over 100%. (Courtesy City of Scottsdale)

defend itself vigorously."

City of Scottsdale officials would not comment on an ongoing lawsuit, which is filed in the U.S. District Court, District of Arizona.

The case is part of multidistrict litigation including municipalities from across the country filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The City of Tucson was the first Arizona municipality to enter this consolidated complaint. Tempe, Gilbert and Scottsdale have each filed

individual actions in federal court in Arizona. Peoria has plans to enter the fray.

Joseph Tann, who is representing the Arizona municipalities, said the fire apparatus market has reduced competition and contributed to substantial delays in the delivery of firefighting equipment

Tann said he and his co-counsel are seeking to recover taxpayer funds meant for lifesaving equipment relied upon by local Arizona fire departments and the communities they serve.

This is the public's money, and municipalities are spending more than they should, Tann said.

"The heart of our case is that our municipalities have to buy fire trucks, full stop, and they don't have room in their budgets to deal with artificial price increases," he said. "It is particularly offensive because it is our first responders. This about public safety."

A custom firetruck built by Pierce Manufacturing increased from about \$821,000 in October 2022 to about \$1.11 million in November 2025, an increase of more than 35%, according to Tucson's complaint. Over roughly the same period, an aerial ladder increased from approximately \$1.38 million to approximately \$1.71 million.

American Industrial Partners sought to exploit the fact that fire trucks are critical lifesaving apparatuses: every locality needs to provide firefighting services to its residents, the lawsuit states, Scottsdale's complaint said.

"Localities, their fire departments, and taxpayers must pay for these services, even if choices dwindle and prices go up for firefighting equipment. (American Industrial Partners) saw that eliminating competitors — by acquiring them, instead of competing on the merits — would give it the power to profiteer by imposing ever increasing supra-competitive prices on localities, thereby raking in extraordinary payouts for AIP and its executives," according to the lawsuit.

In a Congressional hearing of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Disaster Management held last September, Chairman Josh Hawley, R-Mo., called the role of private equity in the

• See **Lawsuit** on page 26



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BUSINESS

Developer behind proposed Museum Square files complaint against Scottsdale HOA

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A developer behind the proposed Museum Square project in Scottsdale is filing a complaint against an HOA for causing financial and reputational damage via a lengthy legal battle.

ARC Scottsdale Holdings filed the complaint in the Maricopa County Superior Court against the Gateway at Main St. Plaza Scottsdale Condominium Association (also known as the “Association”) on a count of abuse of process, a count of tortious interference with business expectancy, a count of injurious falsehood, and a count of declaratory relief, according to the complaint.

The complaint alleges that ARC had acquired properties from the City of Scottsdale in 2022 to be transformed into the 4.5-acre project known as Museum Square.

In order for the project to proceed, ARC, the city of Scottsdale and the association had agreed to terminate seven declarations of covenants and restrictions that imposed development and use restrictions on the property.

This termination was done in 2019, prior to ARC’s acquisition. The complaint alleges that in 2025, the association decided to adopt the stance of opposing the termination in order to stop the development.

This led to a lawsuit being filed to stop the termination, that the complaint alleges was done in order to gain economic benefit, with the association claiming the termination was not executed properly.

The lawsuit was ultimately dismissed by a court after it was amended, but was appealed in September



A rendering of Museum Square in Scottsdale. (Photo courtesy Mike Scerbo)

2026.

“The HOA’s unsuccessful litigation delayed a \$300 million development, disrupted business relationships, jeopardized opportunities with hotel operators and investors, and damaged ARC’s reputation,” Jason Rose, President of Rose + Allyn Public Relations, who is the spokesman for Museum Square. “Its repeated bad judgment has created enormous financial consequences, not just for ARC but potentially for the HOA’s own property owners.”

Rose said that ARC and Museum Square have suffered a financial setback of potentially millions of dollars, and are seeking financial relief.

“The courts have already awarded ARC more than \$137,000 in legal fees and costs, plus interest,” Rose said. “ARC is seeking potentially mil-

lions of dollars for construction delays, lost revenue, damaged business relationships and other harm caused by the HOA’s litigation.”

The financial burden will be not just on the HOA itself, but also its property owners, Rose said.

Homeowners looking to sell may see a smaller pool of buyers due to higher down payment requirements, higher interest rates and a smaller pool of lenders willing to transact.

“The HOA has lost at every stage of its litigation against Museum Square. Now, because of its misguided legal campaign and continuing bad faith, the HOA faces potentially millions of dollars in damages, placing an even greater financial burden on its property owners,” Rose said. “Despite losing at every stage, the HOA has continued down a costly

legal path that now threatens its own financial stability and could further lower property values.”

Even with the delays, Museum Square is still planned for Scottsdale, Rose said.

“Museum Square remains a fully approved and permitted \$300 million development featuring a luxury hotel, upscale residences and public open spaces,” Rose said. “Unfortunately, the HOA’s continuing litigation has delayed a project that would bring significant investment and vitality to downtown Scottsdale.”

Attempts to reach the association were unsuccessful.

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OPINION

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Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Vote for Zubia, a leader who listens

Scottsdale is a community we share and a future we shape together. I am deeply concerned about the direction of our city council. Cutting vital water resources and trading solutions for political infighting is not what residents should accept from their leaders.



Raoul Zubia

That is why I am running: That means securing our water, investing in public safety, protecting our neighborhoods and the preserve, ensuring responsible growth, reining in short-term rentals and protecting personal data. Perhaps most importantly, you deserve a council that listens to you.

With only two seats open, the choice is clear. More division and chaos or a return to common-sense leadership. I'm running against two extreme candidates who offer more of the same.

I'm a proud lifelong Scottsdale resident, and public service is about who you stand up for. Residents are tired of the drama and of feeling unheard. You deserve leaders who listen first, keep open minds and solve problems the right way.

Through more than 25 years in banking and decades of community service, I have learned how to get things done. I have stood up for long-term investment in our water infrastructure. I helped lead efforts to protect our preserve and the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and to revitalize our parks, all while lowering your taxes.

I have served as chair of the Human Services Commission, vice chair of the Protect and Preserve Scottsdale

LETTERS

Task Force, and president of Partners for Paiute. I serve on the EVIT, Charro and SUSD Foundations and the Parada Del Sol Committee.

I'm proud to have the support of police, fire, former mayors and council members, CAP Water Board members, including former Attorney General Terry Goddard and current Councilmembers Solange Whitehead and Vice Mayor Maryann McCallen.

Please vote only for me by Nov. 3 to help secure common-sense leadership.

Raoul Zubia

CANDIDATE, SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL

The experience Scottsdale schools need

I am Jennifer Johnson, a candidate for the SUSD Governing Board. As a native Arizonan, educator, parent and community member, I will bring proven leadership to the SUSD governing board. My focus is on strengthening student achievement, building strong career readiness, and fostering meaningful engagement among parents, community and schools. I care about our students. I believe you do as well.



Jennifer Johnson

Through my career as a public-school teacher, principal and district superintendent, I gained the knowledge, skills and experience needed to understand how successful districts excel. The school and district that I led consistently earned "A" letter grades and received national recognition. As a deputy superintendent for the Arizona Department of Education, I guided the implementation of programs that supported districts

across Arizona. I served as an assistant vice president at Grand Canyon University, where I provided professional development, resources and student experiences that promoted high levels of student achievement.

High achievement for all students requires strong systems, accountability and districtwide policies alongside a governing board that can collaborate, analyze and set meaningful goals for students and educators. My experience lets me contribute to the board's effectiveness from day one. I've done this work before, and I want to bring that expertise to SUSD.

Beyond my career in education, I've helped build community coalitions that support schools. I intend to work closely with every part of our community to benefit our students.

Our schools reflect our community and work hard to earn their trust. Our students deserve top-quality educators. Our teachers deserve our full support. Our parents deserve transparency and accountability. Our community deserves strong fiscal management and opportunities to invest in our schools, because strong schools mean safe, strong neighborhoods.

Please vote for Jennifer Johnson. Experience matters. Leadership matters. Your vote matters.

Jennifer Johnson

CANDIDATE, SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD

Elections, school closures, have consequences

Elections have consequences. Recently, Scottsdale families saw just how significant those consequences can be when the governing board

Letters

• From page 8

voted 3-2 to close two more neighborhood schools.



Jeanne Beasley

Copper Ridge and Laguna will join Pima and Echo Canyon as schools our community is losing. Four schools in less than a year. Behind every closure are students, teachers, families and neighborhoods forever changed.

Schools are more than buildings. They are places where friendships form and communities connect. Closing a school disrupts families, changes boundaries, can increase commutes and weakens the connections that make Scottsdale special.

Yes, declining enrollment is a real challenge, and responsible financial decisions must be made. But school closures should be a last resort, not the first solution.

Before closing another school, we should be asking: What more can we do to attract families? Have we explored partnerships and better uses of existing facilities? Have we fully considered the consequences alongside projected savings? Have we listened to parents choosing other educational options?

We cannot close our way to a stronger school district. We must give families compelling reasons to choose SUSD and explore every reasonable alternative before making irreversible decisions.

As a longtime Scottsdale resident, former SUSD parent and candidate for the governing board, I believe our community deserves leaders who ask difficult questions, welcome public input, support school staff and put students at the center of every decision.

School closures are decisions that can shape neighborhoods for generations. So are the decisions we make

about who leads our district.

The future of Scottsdale's public schools deserves thoughtful, long-term leadership. Vote for Jeanne Beasley and Amy Carney for the Scottsdale Unified Governing Board on or before Nov. 3. Learn more at SUSDstrong.com.

Jeanne Beasley

CANDIDATE, SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED GOVERNING BOARD

Your safety is why I support Graham and Ugenti-Rita for Scottsdale

Scottsdale's high quality of life starts with its residents feeling safe in their neighborhoods and around their community. It's the foundation of everything else we value; strong neighborhoods, thriving tourism and a growing economy.

The officers who provide that safety have made their choice. Scottsdale Police trust Councilman Barry Graham and former State Senator Michelle Ugenti-Rita. They're the only candidates in this election with that endorsement.

That endorsement reflects a record. Barry and Michelle understand how critical public safety is to our success and our quality of life. They have a record of leadership, of fully funding public safety, and of standing with the men and women in blue. Competitive pay, increased staffing, sound pension investments and stand-alone police funding are how a city keeps experienced officers and recruits the next generation.

I have seen who shows up for public safety when the vote is called, not only when the camera is on. On Nov. 3, voters will fill two seats. I support Barry Graham and Michelle Ugenti-Rita, the candidates who have earned the trust of the officers who keep us safe.

Jan Dubauskas

MEMBER, SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL

Be a Civility Advocate!



Civility Checklist

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

- ☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.
- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.
- ☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.
- ☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.
- ☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.
- ☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.
- ☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.

EDUCATION

Three candidates square off in SUSD governing board forum

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A paralegal, a businesswoman/writer and a career educator who has served as a teacher, principal and district superintendent squared off in a candidate forum hosted by the Scottsdale Parent Council Oct. 7 designed to help voters decide who should fill two seats on the Scottsdale Unified School District opening up next year.

Those three would be Jeanne Beasley, Amy Carney and Dr. Jennifer Johnson, respectively, and they grappled with questions like how to ensure parents are heard when deciding to close schools, how to manage student-facing positions in light of a shrinking budget and their stance on the district's \$375 million, five-year bond to pay for aging infrastructure.

Maybe one of the most important questions of the event was how would each candidate address declining enrollment.

The district has lost 6,000 students over the last 15 years — due, in part, to a decline in school age kids moving into districts and to the fact parents have more choices to go to private schools with the state's Empower-



Jeanne Beasley, Amy Carney and Dr. Jennifer Johnson shared their ideas on what the future of Scottsdale Unified School District should look like Oct. 7 during a forum put on by the Scottsdale Parent Council. (Courtesy Maricopa County School Superintendent's office, Scottsdale Unified School District and Dr. Jennifer Johnson)

ment Scholarship Account — which has spurred tough decisions about the budget and school closures.

Carney, the only incumbent in the race who is serving her first term on the board, said the board's role is "to learn how to fight this and not to just keep managing decline. It means asking why families are leaving or not choosing us in the first place and then pivoting to educational options that they are looking for."

For instance, one thing Carney said parents want is less screen time in the classrooms, especially in elementary schools.

Johnson said there is a host of things the district should be doing, the first of which is supporting existing families within the district, but she added the district must also understand the thinking of parents who are not choosing the district.

"I agree we need to do much more research on why people leave," she said. "What would it take to bring them back? I think we can replicate popular programs, whether it's a language immersion program or a traditional model."

That also includes things like adding more technical education pro-

grams or maybe even introducing an arts magnate to the district.

Finally, Johnson said the district needs to do a better job marketing its success by eliciting the help of private sector marketing experts and creating brand ambassadors.

Beasley advocated for taking a more holistic approach.

"The governing board, the district, needs to look at all reasons for declining enrollment," Beasley said. "Focusing on demographics or how much a home costs or maybe people are having less children, that's fine, I'm not saying that's not part of declining enrollment, but you have to look at everything. If you've sat in on those board meetings, you've heard parents comment on things that they love or don't like about the district. Those all have to do with declining enrollment. For example, closing more schools makes the district not as stable."

The district governing board has closed four schools over a two year period, but the administration has no plan to recommend shutting down any more.

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EDUCATION

International School of Arizona chooses new head of school

The International School of Arizona Board of Trustees has appointed Nathan Walker as the school's next head of school, effective July 1, 2027.

Walker succeeds Jason Smith, who will continue to lead the school through June 30, 2027, to ensure a seamless transition, according to a press release.

Walker's appointment follows a comprehensive national search led by the board of trustees, a search committee and the Educators Collaborative consultant. Following extensive interviews and campus visits with faculty, staff, parents, and trustees, the board unanimously approved Walker's selection.

"In Nathan, we have found an executive leader, lifelong Spanish educator, and global citizen who brings over two decades of leadership experience across PK-12, multilingual, day, and residential international communities worldwide," Errin Simpkins Travers, Chair of the ISA Board of Trustees and Search Committee, said in the release. "He possesses a deep appreciation for ISA's dual French and Spanish pathways, our close-knit community, and our mission of opening doors to success in a constantly changing world."

Walker brings more than 30 years of educational experience to ISA. His administrative career includes serving as director general at the American Institute of Monterrey in Mexico, head of School at Istanbul International Community School in Türkiye, associate superintendent for Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools in Saudi Arabia and Head of School at Schutz American School in Egypt. Most recently, Walker chose an intentional return to the classroom as a middle and upper school Spanish teacher, dorm parent, and student advisor at Shattuck-St. Mary's



Nathan Walker will take over the school head position at the International School Arizona next July. (Courtesy International School of Arizona)

School in Minnesota to stay closely connected to the daily experience of students and families.

"Learning additional languages opens doors to friendships, cultures, and ways of seeing the world," Walker said. "During our visit, my wife Ambrest and I felt ISA's vision come to life through the welcoming spirit and pride across the community. I look forward to supporting both the French and Spanish tracks, honoring ISA's distinctive strengths, and working alongside the Board, faculty, and families to build on the school's success."

Over the coming months, a structured transition plan will be executed collaboratively between Smith, Walker, and the board of trustees.

The International School of Arizona offers a PK-8 multilingual education through dual French and Spanish language tracks in Scottsdale.



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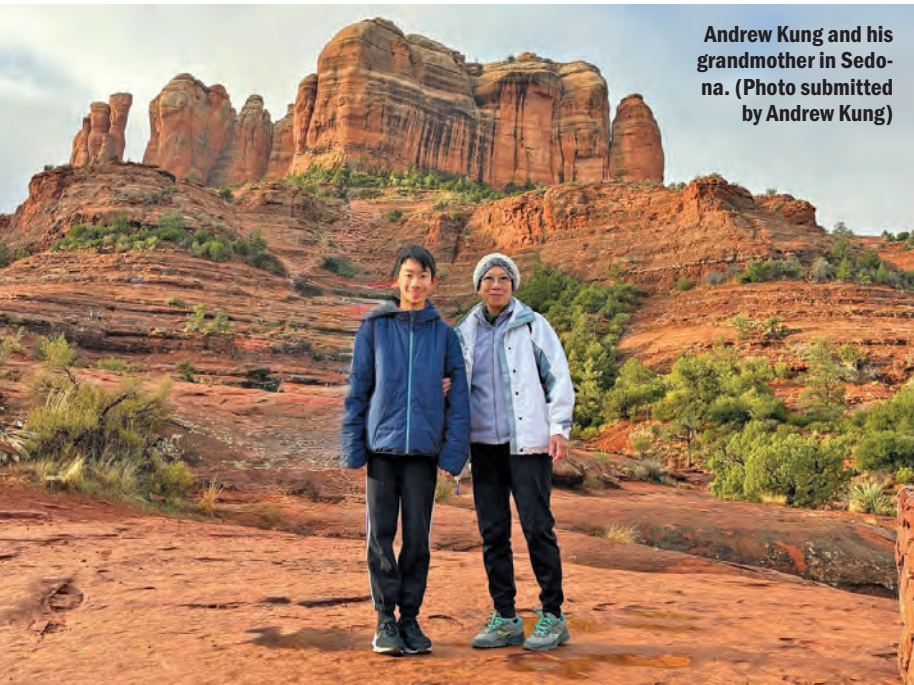
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**MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

NEIGHBORS

Brophy freshman turns love of golf into nonprofit for cancer research



Andrew Kung and his grandmother in Sedona. (Photo submitted by Andrew Kung)

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For Brophy College Preparatory freshman and Valley resident Andrew Kung, golf has become more than a sport.

Kung recently founded OutDrive Collective, a nonprofit that uses golf to raise money for charitable causes.

He will host the organization's first tournament, the OutDrive Collective Open, Oct. 19 at Stonecreek Golf Club in Phoenix.

The idea for the nonprofit grew from Kung's love of golf and his desire to use the sport to help others.

"I'm doing this event because I just want to bring people together in the community, and I want to make an impact," he said. "We just want people to be there and supporting this

cause."

His first event will support multiple myeloma cancer research at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, a cause that is personal to Kung and his family because his grandmother is a survivor of the disease.

The tournament will raise money for Dr. Rafael Fonseca's cancer research program at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.

Kung said he wanted his first event to support research that could help people affected by the disease.

"Without Dr. Fonseca as my grandma's doctor, my grandma probably would not be here right now," he said. "His whole charity event is to help out people who can be in a tough situation, kind of like my family and

• See **Kung** on page 25

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BUSINESS

San Manuel Investment Authority acquires Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is under new ownership but the buyers say they are going to leave operations untouched.

San Manuel Investment Authority, an unincorporated governmental instrumentality of Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, recently acquired Fairmont Scottsdale Princess — often referred to as merely the Princess — for an undisclosed sum.

“Growing and diversifying our Nation’s economy is key to our sustainability and our sovereignty,” said Lynn Valbuena, chairwoman of the SMIA board and chairwoman of Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. “Our Investment Board executes on a vision of finding high-quality luxury non-gaming properties that align with our Tribe’s vision of hospitality and our guests’ interest. The Princess is the perfect addition to our portfolio for those reasons.”

Management for the Princess did not respond to requests for comment, but the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce president Mark Stanton said the Princess is an important member of the community.

“The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess has long been a valued member and strong supporter of the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as an outstanding contributor to our community. We look forward to its continued success and wish the entire team all the best as this iconic Scottsdale resort begins an exciting new chapter.”

According to Valbuena, the acquisition will strengthen Fairmont Scott-



San Manuel Investment Authority recently acquired the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess for an undisclosed sum. (Photo courtesy San Manuel Investment Authority)

sdale Princess as well.

“Fairmont has a strong team culture, one that aligns well with our vision and values. I am looking forward to welcoming Fairmont team members and the Fairmont brand into our family of properties, as well as becoming an active member in the Tribal community,” Valbuena said. “We have a long-term investment philosophy. We believe that investments grow over time and look forward to working closely with property leadership on how we can bring our expertise to help them grow and expand their brand and impact on the community.”

Valbuena said that acquisition strengthens and diversifies SMIA’s portfolio of properties. She also clarified that it would be business as usual for day-to-day-operations of the hotel.

She also mentioned that the acquisition provides Club Serrano members with a third destination among a regional network of connectivity for guests who travel among southern California, Las Vegas and Phoenix.

“From a hospitality perspective, Phoenix stands out among national

leaders as a top-tier leisure and group destination ... Fairmont Scottsdale Princess will drive more frequent visitation and amplify the benefits and value of Club Serrano membership,” Valbuena said.

According to Valbuena, the acquisition will also strengthen Fairmont Scottsdale Princess as well.

“Fairmont has a strong team culture, one that aligns well with our vision and values. I am looking forward to welcoming Fairmont team members and the Fairmont brand into our family of properties, as well as becoming an active member in the Tribal community,” Valbuena said. “We have a long-term investment philosophy. We believe that investments grow over time and look forward to working closely with property leadership on how we can bring our expertise to help them grow and expand their brand and impact on the community.”

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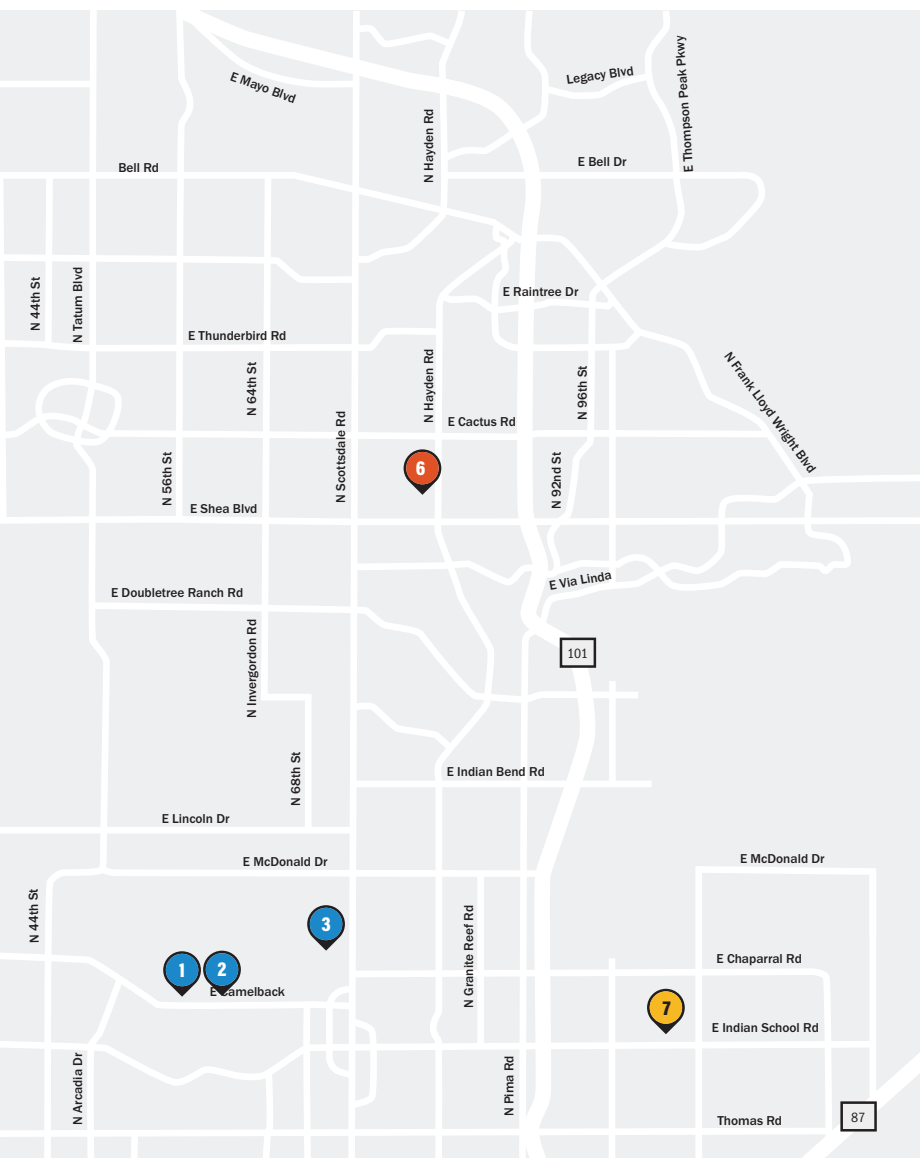
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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 Dawning PR has opened an office in Scottsdale. The six-person firm offers services in media relation, community relations, crisis communications and social media campaigns. The company also offers a how to package for organizations looking to do their own public relations. 6900 E. Camelback Road, suite. 601. 480-220-6051

2 Loewe has opened a new store in the Scottsdale Fashion Square mall. Loewe presents a full offer of men's and women's ready-to-wear clothes, bags, small leather goods, shoes, eyewear, belts, hats and caps, and home scents. 7014 E. Camelback Road. 480-568-5568.

3 The Colorado-based sandwich shop chain the Smiling Moose Sandwich Grill opened it's first Arizona location in the Scottsdale Crossing shopping



DAWNING PR

center Aug. 17. Smiling Moose Sandwich Grill is known for its made-to-order sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, burgers and freshly baked cookies, according to a press release. 2865 N. Scottsdale Road. 602-844-9996.

4 The French Crêperie has opened. The cafe is an authentic French restaurant concept that is owned by French native Natacha Douglas, who specializes in sweet and savory French crêpes, French pastries, crêpe-making classes (beginning January 2027) and an authentic French dining experience. 4225 N. Marshall Way, Suite 2. 480-885-2854.

COMING SOON

5 Scottsdale-based real estate brokerage and development firm Diversified Partners has broken ground on the Lakefront at Scottsdale, mixed-use development. An approximately 100,000-square-foot mixed-use redevelopment, the Lakefront is designed to transform a Scottsdale waterfront property into a destination for dining, curated retail, office space and gathering areas, according to a press release, 7501 E. McCormick Parkway. 480-947-8800.

6 Location-based entertainment brand Time Mission just signed the

lease to open at Sonora Village in late spring/summer 2027. The approximately 10,000-square-foot venue is a team-based adventure space that blends physical and mental challenges across 25-plus fully themed rooms, dodging lasers, cracking codes, and solving puzzles to earn points and climb the leaderboard. 15745 Hayden Road. 401-321-4546.

PARTNERSHIPS

7 Phoenix-based Shasta Pools. The new ownership group will grow the company's core business divisions, including residential and commercial pool construction and renovation, Shasta Signature Series luxury pool designs, backyard hardscaping solutions, extended warranties and e-commerce supplies. 3750 W. Indian School Road, Phoenix. 602-532-3700.

8 The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation has purchased the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. Commonly known as just "the Princess" for over four decades, the hotel Spans 65 acres with 750 guest rooms and suites and has earned the AAA Timeless Diamond designation in 2025 for maintaining Five Diamond status since 1991. 7575 E. Princess Drive. 480-585-4848.



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FIRST RESPONDERS

Report: violent crime on the decline in Old Town Scottsdale

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

While the Sept. 5 shooting in Old Town that left one man dead and another wounded was definitely tragic, but it is not part of an increasing trend of violence in the area, according to a recent report dated Sept. 16 by Scottsdale City Manager Greg Caton.

In fact, violent crimes in Old Town have been going down — way down — over the last five years, the report said.

Police calls related to violent crime in Old Town have dropped from 433 in 2021 to 165 through Sept. 8 of this year. While the year's not over yet, that's still a 44% drop so far from five



After responding to more than 433 calls related to violent crime in Old Town in 2021, Scottsdale police officers have had 165 violent crime calls through Sept. 8 of this year. (Arianna Graine/Independent Newsmedia)

years ago.

"The men and women of the Scottsdale Police Department assigned to downtown are doing exceptional work in one of the most demanding environments in the city," Caton said in the report.

Police typically staff 38 personnel in and around Old Town until 2:30 a.m. on weekends and that number can jump by more than 30 additional officers on holidays and special event weekends, the report said.

Still, Old Town does have particular hot spots for violent crime.

"The 20 highest-volume locations account for approximately 65 percent

• See **Crime** on page 19

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Crime

• From page 18

of downtown reports and 61 percent of violent-crime-related calls for service over the 2021-2026 (year-to-date) period," the report said. "This concentration reinforces the importance of venue-level prevention, security, lighting, camera coverage, crowd management, and close cooperation with police."

Mayor Lisa Borowsky met with bar and club owners as well as other downtown stake holders Sept 11.

The meeting, she said, was not a reaction to any one incident but in response to concerns raised by stake holders over a period of time.

"It went great," Borowsky said. "We came to agreement on some action items ... I think we're going to see some changes in the entertainment district that are going to be for the better."

She said some of the issues discussed and agreed to by venue operators included adding more lighting, especially in the alley ways; monitoring security cameras better and and more communication among club owners to include warning each other about patrons that may be causing trouble possibly heading their way.

Recent targeted enforcement details also demonstrate the level of proactive work occurring downtown, according to Caton's report.

"From July through early September, officers recovered 16 firearms, made more than 30 arrests and conducted more than 100 traffic stops," the report said. "Those operations included arrests involving prohibited possessors, gang members, narcotics trafficking, felony warrants and impaired driving."

Homelessness is also a significant part of the downtown public-safety situation.

"The McKellips District leads the city in homelessness intervention volume, exceeding all other districts combined," the report said. "In 2026,

officers and partners conducted 1,916 intervention contacts, along with 158 camp cleanups and 270 arrests. That follows more than 4,000 intervention contacts in 2025. These efforts combine outreach, services, cleanup activity, and enforcement to reduce disorder and maintain safe, clean public spaces."

The report says continuing practices like using the existing downtown camera system and using "intelligence level enforcement" as some of the ongoing safety efforts conducted by police.

But it also lists some ways to improve safety in downtown.

"The next phase should focus on prevention and shared accountability," Caton said in the report. "The Police Department can provide a strong presence and rapid response, but it cannot be the only layer of safety. Businesses that draw large nighttime crowds must take an active role in preventing disorder before it reaches the street and in creating an environment where officers and security personnel can quickly identify and address threats."

Strengthening business and venue responsibility was on the list as one of the key steps toward improving Old Town's safety.

That includes things like establishing clear expectations for security staffing at the busiest venues and improving staff training in areas like de-escalating situations, are among this step.

The report also listed improving the physical environment in Old Town with installing more and brighter lights as well as more cameras as a next level step that should be done.

Finally, the report said improving officer awareness and multi-department support with things like creating an enforceable downtown noise ordinance and continue and expand targeted gun suppression and crime suppression details during peak nightlife hours are important.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Over 70 police dogs to show their competition chops at WestWorld of Scottsdale

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Over 70 service dogs from 30 police departments in six states will descend on WestWorld of Scottsdale Oct. 24-25.

No, it's not a new fire hydrant expo, but rather the 23rd annual Desert Dog Police Canine Trials and Public Safety Expo hosted by the Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association.

The dogs will compete in categories like handler protection, tough dog and tactical obedience.

New this year will be the electronic storage device detection.

"We have dogs that are able to sniff out electronic storage devices," ALECA President Tony Sanborn said. "They're brought in with detectives to locate media devices like rewritable hard drives. There's a unique odor that's associated with rewritable hard drives that canines are trained on so they'll go in on like a search warrant, for example, and be able to sniff in the walls, couch cushions, safes, any hidden area with that critical piece of evidence."

And of course, the dog with the most points from all the categories will win the honor of Top Dog.

But if you think that's a lot of dogs, wait till you see the people.

Attendance has been known to swell to over 10,000 over the weekend, but Sanborn said the association is aiming higher this year.

In order to draw more people, there will be things like a trunk-or-treat (with close to 100 trunks to

gather from), police vehicles (including armored vehicles) to climb in and on while kids can don police gear, live police recruiters and the presentation naming this year's Colin's K9 Dream recipient — a child with a terminal illness will be sworn in as a police officer for a day and the family will receive a free vacation of their choosing. The honor is named after 10-year-old Colin Raskey, who died of brain cancer in 2020.

The idea is to present law enforcement officers — of the two- and four-footed varieties — as just normal ... eh, people, according to ALECA Director of Operation Andrew Carlsson.

It's a wide range of people who come out to the shows too. There's been a push over the last five years to expand the allure of the show to more than just law enforcement officers and their families, Sanborn said.

"We want to get people who don't know about law enforcement, don't know what we do, don't know about our profession ... (there's a) huge push this year to get the schools to come out," Sanborn said. "We really want to connect with especially our high school age kids and talk about a career in law enforcement. Have them come out and ask about what it looks like to go into this profession."

And to kick the good times up a notch, the event will also feature performances by country music stars Kristen Merlin, who won second place on "The Voice," and Kylie Morgan.

• See **Jumped** on page 21

Dogs

• From page 21

Merlin will take the stage at 1 p.m. Oct. 24 and Morgan starts her set 1 p.m. Oct. 5.

The two will also be available for meet and greets immediately following their performances.

Other acts include Ronny Nine and Emmy Grisworld.

All event goers will also be eligible for a series of prizes that include dinner for four at Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers, tickets to the 2027 Scottsdale 4th of July Celebration, tickets to a select show at Pepsi Amphitheater in Fort Tuthill County Park in Flagstaff during the 2027 summer season and official ALECA merchandise.

With so much going on, it may be easy to forget the dogs and their handlers are the real stars of the show.

"These dogs are trained to the highest level," Carlsson said. "Their week consists of maintenance training and they have the best temperament. We only purchase the best canines. They go through a long, several-month basic training to learn all the things they need to know. They're highly obedient and their drive to work is very high."

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, children 12 and under are free. Single day and two day ticket options are available. Ticket purchases include entry to the Public Safety Expo in the North Hall and the K9 Trials in the Equidome.

For more information and tickets, visit ALECAPoliceK9.com.

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What goes together better than dogs and country music? Over 70 police dogs and their trainers will join forces with country music stars Kristen Merlin and Kylie Morgan to entertainment goers to the 23rd annual Desert Dog Police Canine Trials and Public Safety Expo at WestWorld of Scottsdale Oct. 24-25. (Courtesy the Arizona Law Enforcement Canine Association)



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REAL ESTATE

Housing market holds year-to-date gains through soft August

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Greater Phoenix's single-family housing market held onto year-to-date sales gains through September, but the month brought a sharper slowdown in new contract activity, according to data from the Phoenix REALTORS.

Closed sales dropped 4.9%, and new listings dropped 3.7% in September this year compared to last year, but pending sales plummeted 40.1%.

Scottsdale, though, saw a 2.8% increase in new listings and a 2.2% increase in closed sales in September 2026 compared to 2025. Year-to-date, Scottsdale's closed sales were up 10.6% for the first nine months of the year. However, like the great-

er Phoenix market, pending sales in Scottsdale saw a precipitous 40.2% drop this September compared to last year's.

Year over year, national closed sales were down 1.2% in September, and Greater Phoenix was down 4.9% for the month. Nationally, inventory of homes for sale rose to its highest level in more than 10 years, up 5.9% from last year, according to the data. In the local region, inventory rose 6.7% despite fewer new listings hitting the market.

"While Scottsdale buyers may be less sensitive to mortgage rate fluctuations, they are not immune to broader

economic uncertainty," Phoenix Realtors Board President Sammy Glassman said in an email to the Daily Independent. "Many have the financial flexibility to wait, particularly as inventory increases, and they have more choices. Stock market volatility, shifting economic conditions and pricing expectations can all influence purchasing decisions, especially in the luxury market, where buyers often have significant assets tied to investments."

She noted that although the 40.2% decline in pending sales is significant, Scottsdale's year-to-date closed sales remain up 10.6%, demonstrating

continued demand and outperforming the Greater Phoenix market.

"I see this as buyers becoming more selective and deliberate rather than abandoning the market," Glassman said. "However, the sharp decline in pending contracts could signal a slowdown ahead if the trend continues. For sellers, this reinforces the importance of competitive pricing, strong presentation and demonstrating value to attract today's more cautious buyers."

Year-to-date trends tend to smooth out the statistical highs and lows, and compared to last year's numbers, the first nine months are pretty close to even. Year-to-date closed sales for the Valley rose 2.9% while pending sales

"The Scottsdale market continues to outperform other Valley cities for a few very notable reasons."

Jen Teague
Vice president, board of Phoenix REALTORS

• See **Housing** on page 23



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Housing

• From page 22

dropped 2.2% compared to last year. New listings were down 2.1%.

In Scottsdale, year-to-date closed sales rose 10.6%, while pending sales rose 6.3%. New listings were down just 1%.

“The Scottsdale market continues to outperform other Valley cities for a few very notable reasons,” Jen Teage, Vice President of the Board of Phoenix REALTORS said in an email to the Daily Independent.

“First, Scottsdale’s affluent buyer pool tends to be less sensitive to mortgage rate fluctuations. Second, inventory in Scottsdale has decreased, unlike other Valley cities that have seen marked increases. This combination of financially resilient buyers and relatively limited housing supply in desirable neighborhoods has helped sustain demand.

“While transaction counts are down Valley-wide, median and average home prices in Scottsdale have increased, signaling continued buyer interest,” she continued. “Desirable, established neighborhoods and Scottsdale’s lifestyle appeal help to position the city as one of the Valley’s stronger and more stable markets.”

The median sales price of a single-family home in the Valley slipped 2.1% year over year in September from nearly \$485,000 to \$475,000. The year-to-date median sales price was essentially flat, rising from \$480,000 to \$482,000, up 0.4%. Homes sold slightly faster in September, with days on the market dropping from 79 to 77. Year to date, that number rose from 74 to 78 days.

But prices seem to go ever up in Scottsdale. The median sales price of a single-family home in the Valley climbed 2.1% year over year in September from \$1.15 million to \$1.2 million. And the the year-to-date from \$1.185 million to \$1.25 million,

in increase of 5.5%

Single-family homes received 98.1% of list price in the Valley in September, unchanged from last year, even as buyers continued to negotiate concessions to help address the overall cost of the transaction.

In Scottsdale, home sellers are getting 97.2% of the asking price in September, which is up from 96.6% from a year ago.

Even with fewer new listings in September, the inventory of homes for sale in the Valley increased 6.7%, with the months’ supply at 4.3 months, compared to four months last year.

However, Scottsdale’s inventory in September shrunk 9.8%, from 4.1 months to 3.7%. That means Scottsdale’s inventory is going down while the rest of the Valley is going up.

“Seasonality likely plays a role, but Scottsdale’s stronger sales activity is also contributing to its lower months supply. Scottsdale typically experiences a summer slowdown, followed by renewed interest as seasonal residents and second-home buyers return in the fall,” Glassman said.

“Unlike much of the Valley, Scottsdale’s closed sales increased 2.2% in September and remain up 10.6% year to date, helping absorb available inventory,” she continued. “Some homeowners may also be holding off on listing until the winter buying season, when Scottsdale traditionally attracts more out-of-state buyers. However, with pending sales declining sharply in September, we could see inventory begin to build if that slowdown translates into fewer closings.”

A six-month supply has traditionally been considered a healthy market.

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“Discovery”
by Chris Dellorco

Motion to show cause filed in lawsuit over sunseting parks and preserve tax early

By J. Graber

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The City of Scottsdale has not yet responded to a lawsuit by former Scottsdale City Councilman and City Treasurer David Smith to sunset the parks and preserves sales tax passed in 2004 early.

That means Smith has filed a motion to show cause in Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Daniel Martin's court to force the city to either respond to the suit or explain why it does not need to.

"I do not know what their thinking was," Smith said concerning the reasoning behind his action. "As I said, they did not choose to talk to me or my attorney or, as far as I know, the court, so I took the next step."

A spokeswoman for the City of Scottsdale said in an email to the Daily Independent the city agreed to waive formal service of the summons and complaint, and its response is not due until the end of October.

"The city has not been served with (the motion to show cause)," she said in the email. "The court will schedule a hearing and establish deadlines for the city's responsive briefing. The city will respond within those deadlines."

Voters approved in 2004 a 30-year, 0.15% sales tax in order to buy land, improve the preserve and repay the preserve debt.

However, in 2018, voters approved an alteration to the 2004 tax in the form of a charter amendment restricting what the money could be spent on.

"It narrowed even further what the 2004 tax money can be spent on, including restricting improvements to creating new trails," Smith told the Daily Independent in an article that ran Aug. 28. "The situation we find ourselves in, is there is nothing left to spend it on legally, lawfully ... the debt has already been provided for, there is no more preserve land to be bought and there are no new trails authorized or even contemplated."

If left to run its course, the tax would end in 2034.

The tax brings in around \$75,000 a day and Smith said it's important to end it as soon as possible, since there is no legal use for the money.

"It's just going to be trapped forever," Smith said

Once the tax is stopped, then the

question of what can be done with the money can be addressed, he said.

"The court may say, you've got to refund this to the people who paid it and who you taxed unlawfully," Smith said. "I really don't know how they would do that."

But some fear that if the suit is successful, it will kill their funding for a wildlife overpass over Rio Verde Drive in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

If built, the overpass would connect the northern and southern halves of the preserve, allowing animals a safe crossing in order to find food and water and expand their gene pool.

Initial estimates have the overpass at \$35 million, but a new feasibility study with an adjusted estimate is expected to be released in November.

10TH ANNUAL Scottsdale Día de Los Muertos Fiestas 2026

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Kung

• From page 12

with my grandma.”

When Stonecreek Golf Club agreed to host the tournament, Kung said it was the first major show of support for his new nonprofit.

“It was nice knowing that a golf course was willing to support our cause. It was really our first big support behind us, because in order for this golf tournament to happen, of course, you do need a golf course to play on, and it just felt very satisfying,” Kung said.

The OutDrive Collective Open will begin at 8 a.m. with a four-person scramble. The tournament will include lunch, contests, prizes and awards.

Kung hopes the tournament will be the beginning of a larger effort to bring golfers together around charitable causes.

Stonecreek Golf Club General Manager Josh Brown said he has known Kung for a few years and was

excited a mature young person was finding ways to make an impact in their community and that Stonecreek could help make it possible.

“Every time that we can actually get involved with some type of charity event .. Anytime we can get involved with something local, it’s always a good thing,” Brown said. “I want to be a part of the community as a new GM over there. They (the club) wanted to be more a part of the community.”

Through OutDrive Collective, he plans to continue using golf events and community partnerships to raise money and awareness for causes that are meaningful to participants.

Golfers, sponsors and supporters can register for the tournament or learn more through OutDrive Collective at Outdrivecollective@gmail.com or 480-382-0599.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines Education



Andrew Kung's grandmother and Dr. Rafael Fonseca. (Photo submitted by Andrew Kung)



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Michelle and Todd Haden
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Pictured: Alisha Carryall

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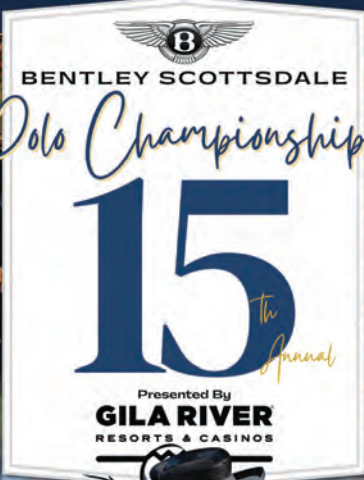
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Scottsdale Police seek feedback

The Scottsdale Police Department is inviting community members to provide comments and feedback as they enter the Year 3 re-accreditation review with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement.

To achieve accredited status, the Scottsdale Police Department must comply with 462 standards.

Read online at YourValley.net.

Scottsdale named one of 2026 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America

The City of Scottsdale has earned national recognition as one of the 2026 Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America by Healthiest Employers, an awards program recognizing or-

ganizations that prioritize employee health and wellbeing.

Scottsdale employs more than 2,800 people and has earned repeated recognition as one of the best places to work.

Read online at YourValley.net.

Olympic torch could pass through Valley in 2028

The Olympic torch for the 2028 Los Angeles games will be first lit as it always is in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. It will then travel through all 50 U.S. states for the first time ever, en route to Los Angeles.

Phoenix is vying to be a part of that route.

Read online at YourValley.net

Lawsuit

• From page 4

fire apparatus industry a crisis facing fire departments across the country.

He said private equity rolled up six or seven fire truck brands in what is today known as Rev Group, resulting in up to 80% of the market controlled by three or four companies.

As a real world example, Hawley cited the Los Angeles wildfires of January 2025, in which he said firefighters were unable to get to the front lines because more than half of Los Angeles Fire Department's fire trucks were out of commission.

Hawley said prior to the consolidation, a new fire truck order took between six months and a year to get a delivery. Today those orders take two years on the low end and four years on the high end, he said.

"Orders have backlogged more than quadruple. That means that fire

departments are forced to wait years for fire trucks," he said. "It has been a constant pattern — more and more backlogs, higher and higher wait times, and yet, more profits by the companies. Where is the money going to exactly?"

The defendants have formally responded to the claims by denying liability and filing motions to dismiss in court. Concerning the actions in federal court in Arizona, Rev Group and others have filed a motion to dismiss the case Aug. 17, which Tann must respond to by Oct. 16. Remedies in the cases may include restitution for inflated prices and delays, treble damages, civil penalties, injunctive relief against the manufacturers, attorneys' fees and costs, and others.

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Law Talk

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What's So Spooky About Probate?

By Colton Powell, Associate Attorney
Law Office of Libby Banks

The Arizona probate process is less haunted house and more paperwork maze, but there are still plenty of reasons to plan around it. You may not realize it, but for most people probate is not an "if" but a "when." Probate has a bad reputation for the time it takes, unwanted publicity, and higher administration costs. Let's explore why it's usually best to avoid probate.

What is probate and what does it involve?

The probate process in Arizona is the court's way of transferring title to assets after someone has died. The court will admit the will to probate (if there is one) and appoint someone to manage the estate. You should beware the fact that having a will does not avoid probate. A will is simply an instruction manual for the probate court.

Probate starts with an application or petition that is filed with the court and is a matter of public record, meaning anyone willing to pay the court's minimal fee can dig into your family's affairs. The first step is appointing a personal representative (or executor) to manage the estate. Then, there is a four-month creditor process to determine any outstanding debts of the deceased. A simple informal probate can take six months to a year to resolve, and it can stretch far beyond if there are extenuating circumstances.

Why should probate be avoided?

If the time, costs, and publicity aren't enough to scare you away from probate, there is another horror that

may seal the deal: a "living" probate. Without an estate plan, if you are ever incapacitated and unable to manage your own affairs, the probate court can intervene during your lifetime with guardianship and conservatorship proceedings. This is the court's way of handling your affairs for you.

Creating an estate plan centered around a revocable living trust allows your affairs to be managed privately by trustees and agents of your choosing. You can save time, money, and dignity by planning for these scenarios before they happen, or the court will do it for you.

When is probate not so spooky after all?

Probate starts to look less frightening when contrasted with the horrors of a shortcut gone wrong. For example, a beneficiary deed with multiple beneficiaries may avoid probate but land those people in a different court arguing over what to do with the property they just inherited. Joint bank accounts with someone other than a spouse can be subject to the lawsuits and divorces of both account owners up to the full value of the account, not just one person's half. In these cases, probate's tricks can pale by comparison, and creating an estate plan can be a real treat.

How can I protect myself from probate?

Creating an estate plan is the best way to protect yourself from the probate maze. We offer free initial consultations for estate planning to advise you on the best path forward. Simply give us a call at 602-375-6752, and we'll come to the rescue!



At The Law Office of Libby Banks, we create highly customized estate plans that meet your unique situation, values, and personal goals. In our complimentary first meeting you will meet with one of our experienced attorneys to discuss your situation and determine what plan best fits your needs.

Remember, when you choose us, you are choosing an experienced team to create a plan that serves your family in the way that you want and, after you are gone, a trusted advisor that your loved ones can depend on. We pride ourselves on the relationships we form with our clients, so that they know they are taken care of and have peace of mind both now and into the future.



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In 30 Minutes I Had a Plan for My Shoulder Pain that Didn't Require Surgery or Pills

By Shoulder Pain Expert, Dr. Matthew Hernandez, Ethos Integrative Medicine

"I was losing sleep. I couldn't get comfortable at night and would wake up constantly. That was the most frustrating part. Everything I was told to do was not helping... the pain was only getting worse."

Tim, 46, came to us after exhausting every option outside of surgery. A competitive volleyball player, energetic entrepreneur, and father to two boys, Tim took pride in his active lifestyle and was determined to find a solution for his shoulder pain.

Ice packs and heat compresses were no longer helpful, and relying on pain-pills was not an option he wanted to take. He committed to physical therapy for several weeks with little

impact, tried dry needling and cortisone injections without success, and was ultimately told by multiple doctors to stop all activity that aggravated his arm. Tim had done everything his insurance allowed but was still stuck at square one.

What The Other Doctors Missed...

Tim had fallen into what we call "The Gap"—where insurance-based care cycles with no end in sight, surgery isn't an option, and waiting for the pain to get worse seems like the only choice. Most providers only look for what they know how to treat. But our comprehensive 'Deep Dive' approach and expertise allowed us to bridge that gap for Tim.

Using a detailed pain profile, 32-point shoulder inspection, MSK

ultrasound scan, and diagnostic injection, we were able to confirm Tim's SC Joint injury and quickly develop a targeted treatment plan to heal the damaged tissue.

A Comprehensive Solution, NO Surgery or Pills

In just 4 weeks, the pain improved significantly, allowing Tim to regain his range of motion, sleep soundly at night, and return to the sport he loves:

"My body is performing better than before, and I have resumed playing volleyball — something I didn't think I would ever be able to do again! If you're tired of the 'just hope for the best' from many in the medical field, and want a complete set of options, Ethos Integrative Medicine is the place to go."

Your Next Step: The Deep Dive for a Pain-Free Shoulder

You're one step away from a pain-free shoulder, too! Imagine being able to comfortably sleep in your side again, play catch with your kid, or put on a t-shirt without pain...

Call 480-573-6171 to schedule your Deep Dive with our specialists at Ethos Integrative Medicine and scan the QR code to access our free report, "Shoulder SOS: The Expert Guide to Decoding Your Pain."



EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM OF A PAIN-FREE SHOULDER:

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- 3. Precision Shoulder Scan:** Our advanced in-office MSK ultrasound scan provides a detailed, real-time view of your shoulder's structures.
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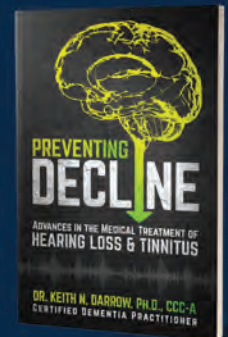
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Cameras

• From page 1

problems, not to react. That is what we are working on, to solve a problem and that is to protect at all costs, privacy but also protect public safety,” she said.

ALPRs became a hot button issue in the Valley in August when it came to light that some officers from different police departments were using them for reasons other than law enforcement purposes.

Four Valley cities have gone so far as to take them down.

Scottsdale Assistant Police Chiefs Christopher Watson and Lee Campbell gave an almost hour-long presentation defending the use of ALPRs.

They likened the movement calling for their removal to the defund the police movement of 2020 and listed multiple instances when ALPRs were used successfully, including locating a man with dementia who had driven



Automatic license plate readers allow Scottsdale Police to solve leads in a matter of minutes that could take as long as weeks to solve without them, according to Scottsdale Assistant Chief of Police Christopher Watson (Independent News-media/Jason W. Brooks)

off from his home in August.

The Scottsdale Police have been using ALPRs since 2008 — when the council voted to use them — and entered into its current contract with the Flock Safety company — which was approved administratively — in 2023. The current contract, which includes 85 cameras around town,

runs out in 2028.

“Stepping away from it would be a giant leap back in time, in service and in overall capability,” Watson said. “Here’s what it would mean for Scottsdale: Slower — leads that take minutes today would take hours, days, weeks. Costlier — you would have more officer hours on every case taken from patrol time or paid in overtime. That affects the public in how quickly we can solve cases and bring them justice. Fewer cases solved — that includes the 27 stolen vehicles that were recovered this year and tied to suspects.”

He also said ALPRs actually protect people’s privacy because they allow officers to focus on specific vehicles.

Watson noted that audits done within the police department has never found a single instance of wrongdoing in Scottsdale. Officers need to include a plate number, a call for service number, the investigation type, who asked for it and why, when searching the system.

Watson noted that only other Arizona law enforcement agencies are able to access Scottsdale’s ALPR system. Federal law enforcement agencies and out-of-state agencies are not allowed to access Scottsdale’s system. Likewise, state legislation passed last year makes it illegal for private companies to sell the data they collect with third parties.

ALPRs are not facial recognition

systems, and they are not used to track people exercising their right to free speech, Watson said.

But not everyone was as friendly to ALPRs.

Twenty one members of the public spoke on the subject with eight of them encouraging the council to stop using ALPRs altogether.

Eric Fowler, chairman of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party, referenced a recent case in which a federal judge in Oklahoma called the use of a Flock system an “indiscriminate mass surveillance” that broke the Fourth Amendment, which protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.

Others also noted that Scottsdale keeps the information it gathers through FLOCK for 185 days, when the company’s retention recommendation is 10 days.

But Watson encouraged the council to challenge the police’s use of the ALPRs and ensure they are being used properly.

“The goal is guardrails, not elimination,” Watson said, noting the state and international associations of chiefs of police have also recommended standards on how ALPRs can be used.

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Gigi's

• From page 1

swer to saving the world.”

There are over 60 GiGi's Playhouses across America and Mexico. The achievement centers are dedicated to improving the lives of people with Down syndrome by offering services like occupational therapy and speech therapy as well as other services while eventually finding them employment as adults. One of the most important services it provides may be the chance to simply socialize with each other.

The Gigi's Playhouse Phoenix is the 21st location in the nation, which Mays says is serendipitous because Down syndrome occurs when there is a third chromosome in the 21st pair.

Gigi's Playhouse Phoenix was started by Jennifer Gage when her daughter was getting ready to graduate high school. There was no clear path for her next step so she spearheaded a start-up

committee in 2013 and started raising funds

The Scottsdale location opened on Valentine's Day 2015 in a single room and has since expanded into the two store fronts on either side of it to its current size of just over 6,000 square feet.

It provides all of its services at no cost to members and runs on about a \$1.2 million budget with no government funding — it's all donors and grants.

The center is the only location in Arizona and works with approximately 1,200 families across the state. On any given month, there will be between 100 and 150 active participants ranging from newborns to members in their 50s.

The playhouse is a place of joy filled with success stories.

For instance member Moria Silverberg is interested in acting and was recently cast as a barista in the independent film “Underneath the Glittery Moon.”

And member Jordan Leydon was

hired by the Phoenix Suns, got four other members hired by the team and was promoted to a full guest service representative.

“He'll take their ticket, tell them where the seat is,” Mays said. “He's giving them eye contact and high fives every time they're coming in, and it's genuine. It's authentic.”

Leydon loves it.

“I like meeting new people and helping other people,” he said.

Leydon's mom Christine Leydon, who became the Scottsdale location's director of adult education after discovering GiGi's Playhouse, is beyond proud of her son's accomplishments.

“When he graduated high school, it was like, now what?” she said. “There's nothing out there for someone with Down syndrome. For years I was searching high and low, asking what is going on as he regressed. Then we found Gigi's Playhouse, thinking it's just for the little ones like everybody else, but it's an amazing adult program

here (too). It's changed our lives. Now my son's confidence is built back up and he's met new friends here. He's living his dream, working for the Suns.”

The goal at GiGi's Playhouse isn't just to fit members into any old job they can find. The idea is to find something that plays to each individual's strengths and interests.

“We have musicians, we have athletes, we have writers, we have baristas,” Mays said. “They all have their own interests. We help give them skills. We identify what their interests are and really send them on this journey. Ultimately their going to end up in our education (program). They're going to work on resumes and job interviews. We're going to get them out into the public.”

But members don't graduate from GiGi's Playhouse per se. They may develop skills and get jobs, but that doesn't mean they stop coming.

“This is a life journey here,” Mays said.

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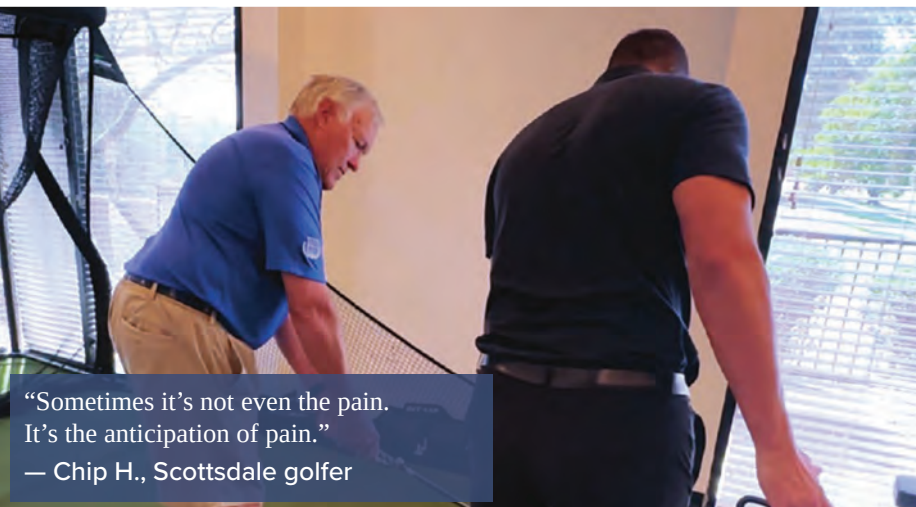


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Still Playing Golf, But Holding Back on Your Swing?

Why back, hip, and sciatica pain has so many Scottsdale golfers hitting shorter than they used to, and what a TPI-certified Doctor of Physical Therapy looks for first.



“Sometimes it’s not even the pain.
It’s the anticipation of pain.”
— Chip H., Scottsdale golfer

Dr. Lance Martin, PT, DPT, TPI-certified, checks how a golfer’s hips and back share the work of the swing.

You still play. Maybe three or four times a week.

But something changed. You swing a little easier now. You think twice before you turn hard through the ball. You wonder how your back will feel tonight, or tomorrow morning when you get out of bed.

Nobody in your foursome says anything. But they’ve noticed you’re not hitting it as far. You think about it on the walk from the tee box back to the cart.

Or maybe you’ve already stopped. The clubs are in the garage, and you keep telling people you’ll get back out “once the back settles down.” You call it being smart. Part of you knows you’d rather be back on the course.

THE BACK USUALLY ISN’T WHERE IT STARTS

The golf swing is a rotation, and most of it should come from your hips and mid-back. When those stop turning the way they used to, from years at a desk, an old injury, or simply moving less, the swing still has to happen. So your lower back turns instead. It was never built for that job.

That’s how stiffness after a round becomes pain in the glute, the hip, or down the leg.

WHY NOTHING CARRIES OVER TO THE COURSE

Then come the different answers. You get stretched. You get a massage. It helps a little, for a day

or two. But nothing seems to carry over to the course.

So you figure your only options are to take it easy, play less, or stop swinging so hard.

There’s another option: find out which link isn’t doing its job.

WHAT A TPI SCREEN LOOKS FOR

Dr. Lance Martin and our Doctors of Physical Therapy are certified through the Titleist Performance Institute, the system used worldwide to evaluate how the body affects the golf swing. In one visit, they look at hip rotation, mid-back rotation, how your pelvis and spine share the work, your balance, and your core stability.

Dylan J., a Scottsdale golfer, had visited close to twenty clinics for low back and hip pain. “Now I can swing a golf club almost every day without thinking about my back.”

WHO THIS IS FOR

If back, hip, or sciatica pain has changed how you play, or whether you play, this is for you.

If you’ve tried stretching, massage, injections, or another round of therapy and it didn’t hold, this is for you.

If someone mentioned surgery and your gut said slow down, this is for you.



TRY THIS TONIGHT: THE HIP ROTATION CHECK

Sit on the floor with your knees bent and feet a little wider than your hips. Keeping your chest tall, let both knees fall slowly to one side, then the other. If one side won’t go as far, or your upper body twists to help, that hip may not be turning, and your back may be making up for it on every swing.

Two Ways to Get Answers

Ready to find out what’s driving it? Each month we reserve a limited number of TPI Golf Back & Hip Screens for golfers whose back, hip, or sciatica pain has lasted longer than three months. It’s one-on-one with a Doctor of Physical Therapy. You’ll leave knowing what may be driving your pain and your next step to get back on the tee box with confidence, even if that step isn’t with us.

Call 623-432-8311 or visit thedoctorsofpt.com/discovery-visit-golf



Not ready to come in? Request the Golf Longevity Kit: Dr. Tom’s bestselling book *Solving the Root Cause of Pain*, plus the Golf Longevity Guide and Scorecard, mailed to your door.

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Level: Advanced

HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes.

4	1	9	1	8	6	5	8	7
5	7	6	2	3	4	8	9	1
3	2	8	1	4	5	6	7	9
6	4	3	7	9	1	5	2	8
7	8	2	5	3	6	4	1	9
1	9	5	4	2	6	3	8	7
2	3	6	8	7	4	1	5	9
9	1	7	2	5	3	8	6	4
8	6	3	1	9	7	4	2	5

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