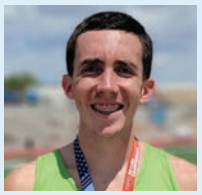
QUEEN CREEK INDEPENDENT
@yourvalley.net
Volume 23 Issue 10

INSIDE
Teen competes in Jr. Olympics
Page 20



NOVEMBER 2026
Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper

Town looks to move 500 customers to irrigation district

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Queen Creek is working on an intergovernmental agreement that would transfer the irrigation accounts of about 500 customers and possibly some infrastructure in the water service area to the Queen Creek Irrigation District.

The upshot is the town would apply its new proposed water resource fee to potable water delivery and not irrigation for those customers.

During a recent meeting, the Queen Creek Town Council approved a motion by a 5-0 vote to initiate the agreement with the irrigation district, which could take a year to complete. Council Members Dawn Oliphant and Travis Padilla were absent from the meeting.

"We have received a lot of comments either personally or via email specifically in regard to irrigation," Mayor Julia Wheatley said. "We heard you, and this is our plan moving forward."

When the council is-

• See **Irrigation** Page **24**

Teen's Eagle Scout project benefits veterans

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For the past several years, San Tan Memorial Gardens at Schnepf Farms has used a temporary flagpole made of PVC piping during ceremonies honoring fallen service members and veterans.

"We saw a need and we actually got a lot of feedback during our events from veterans and their families that it would be nice to have a permanent flagpole," said San Tan Memorial Gardens General Manager Dillon Benavides. "I sent this out to the scouts a couple months ago, and Jett responded pretty quickly and he organized getting a flagpole ordered and raised funds for it and did all the legwork to get it out here and get it installed."

"Jett" is 15-year-old Queen Creek resident Jett Courtright, who had sought a community project to earn his Eagle Scout rank.

Thanks to Courtright, San Tan Memorial Gardens will have its first permanent flagpole in place when it holds a special service on Veterans Day.

Courtright, a Higley High School 10th-grader, had looked at numerous ventures before settling on the flagpole project.

"I kept my options open, and I saw that

• See **Eagle Scout** Page **21**



Jett Courtright, left and his father, Cody Courtright, raise the American and prisoner of war flags for the first time at the new flagpole. Cody Courtright is also an Eagle Scout. (Cherise Courtright)



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

Postal Customer
**********ECRWSSEDDM****

Imagine your home, totally organized!

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



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

40% Off
Plus
Free Installation

PLUS TAKE AN EXTRA **15% Off**

Terms and Conditions: 40% off any order of $1000 or more or 30% off any order of $700-$1000 on any complete unit order of custom closet, garage, or home office, and any other products. Take an additional 15% off on any complete unit order. Not valid with any other offer. Free installation with any unit order of $850 or more. With incoming order, at time of purchase only. Offer not valid in all regions. Expires 11/30/26.

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

Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

ClosetsbyDesign®

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Avoid holiday debt: Spend with intention, not impulse

Tap into the benefits that CDs bring

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

12-months

4.65 % APY*

If you have funds you won't be needing immediately, think about putting them into a CD. Get in touch to learn more.

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10.27.26 . APY interest cannot remain on deposit; periodic payment of interest is required. Certificates of Deposit (CDs) offered by Edward Jones are bank issued and FDIC insured up to $250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Edward Jones is not a bank or FDIC insured institution and deposit insurance only covers the failure of an insured bank. FDIC insurance for brokered-CDs offered by Edward Jones is provided by the FDIC insured banks that issue the CDs on a "pass-through" basis, which requires certain conditions to be met for coverage to apply. **The list of those banks frequently changes. For a list of banks in our network offering brokered-CDs, visit edwardjones.com/brokered-cd-banks. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp (DTC).**



FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Avoid holiday debt: Spend with intention, not impulse

The spirit of the holidays is generous – but it can also be expensive.

If you tend to go into debt with holiday shopping, here are some practical tips to help manage your spending this year:

First, start with a budget. Then write it down, which can make you more accountable. To stick to it, regularly compare what you spend against your budget.

Next, shop early. It can help you avoid panic buying, overspending and costly shipping charges.

Another thought. Pay with cash or debit to stay grounded in what you can afford.

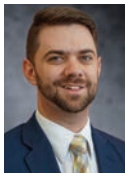
Finally, trim your gift list. Choose close friends and family. Or give experiences like a meal together or help cleaning which often cost less and create memories.

The holidays should bring joy, not financial strain. A little planning now can help give you a peaceful start to the new year – and a healthier financial outlook.

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



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

EFA-24489-A-E-AD © 2026 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD

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

Plans for rental community denied by council

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A split Queen Creek Town Council voted against a rezoning that would have put 150 single-family detached and attached rental units on 16.8 acres near the northeast corner of Germann and Power roads.

The council voted 3-2 to deny a request by landowner Graystar to rezone the property from commercial to medium density residential/planned unit development for its proposed Summerwell Residences.

Mayor Julia Wheatley and Council Members Robin Benning and Jeff Brown voted no, while Vice Mayor Bryan McClure and Council Member Leah Martineau voted yes. Council Members Dawn Oliphant and Travis Padilla were absent from the meeting.

A previous attempt to build a 340-unit multifamily development was halted in 2024, after public opposition caused the developers of that project to withdraw their application.

While the dissenting members of the council said they recognized the proposed project was an improvement over the 2024 plan and that traffic would be lighter than with commercial property, the town's general plan had to be honored.

The general plan has the site designated as commercial as part of the larger Power Marketplace and Power Marketplace Business Park.

"It's pretty clear to me that the residents are not supportive of the number of rezones we've done in general and more specifically the number of rezones that we've done to rental product," Brown said before the vote. "We're really setting ourselves up for the pitchfork-type town council meetings where the chambers will be packed with people that say, 'Apparently, you didn't hear me.'"

Wheatley said the town's efforts at securing an independent water supply didn't square with approving a project that was not subject to the 100-year water assurance certificate state mandate because it is a rental property.



The proposed Summerwell Residences development would have consisted of 102 single and 48 duplex units in a neighborhood setting. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)

"It's a struggle I have where we're coming to our water customers and saying we have secured this great water deal that we don't have to worry about water for 110 years, but we're going to approve this development, and they don't have to guarantee that," Wheatley said before the vote.

Read more at yourvalley.net. **Janet Perez can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.**

P&Z allows town's second hotel to add monument sign

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The still under construction Homewood Suites at the southwest corner of Ellsworth and Rittenhouse roads will be able to put a personal touch on one of its signs.

The Queen Creek Planning & Zoning Commission voted 5-0 on Oct. 14 to approve an amendment to the hotel's comprehensive sigh package. Commissioners Ashley Baldwin and Spencer Hale were absent.

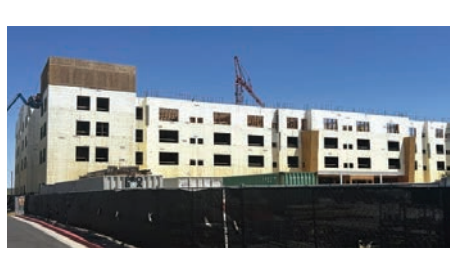
Chelsea United Group, owner of the Homewood Suites, requested that the hotel be allowed to erect a monument sign on Rittenhouse Road that is exclusively for the hotel.

The Homewood Suites falls under an existing comprehensive sign plan for the QC District in downtown.

The QC District sign plan includes two monument signs to be placed along Rittenhouse Road near the hotel. One sign will identify the district and the other will be a multi-tenant sign.

Les Johnson, principal planner for the town, told the commission that the QC District signs have not been built, but the district wants to retain rights to the earmarked monument signs.

"Therefore, (Chelsea United Group is) requesting an amendment to the (plan) in order to establish their own independent monument sign that would be located just east of the existing driveway that's on Rittenhouse," Johnson said. "This is a fairly small monument sign, and staff does not believe it would be an aesthetic blight or cause any issues because of that close proximity to those prospective future monument signs."



The Homewood Suites at the southwest corner of Ellsworth and Rittenhouse roads is expected to open in early 2027. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)

The proposed Homewood Suites monument sign will be 6 feet in height and 7.5 feet in width. The base will be constructed of painted metal and stone veneer to match the hotel, and only the lettering on the sign will be illuminated as opposed to its entire sign face, the report stated.

In June 2022, the Queen Creek Town Council voted to approve the sale of the land to Tempe-based HD Management, a partner in the project with Chelsea United Group, for more than $1.9 million.

Construction started on the four-story, 124-room hotel in fall 2024 and it is scheduled to open in early 2027, according to the town's economic development department. Read more at yourvalley.net

QUEEN CREEK INDEPENDENT

Get In Touch by phone or email

623-972-6101
QueenCreekSanTan ValleyIndependent
yourvalley

Advertising
azads@iniusa.org

Newsroom
aznews@iniusa.org

Obituaries
Azobits@iniusa.org

Staff
Richard Dyer
Managing Editor

Madeline Bates, Tom Blodgett, Jason Brooks, Janet Perez
Newsroom

Patrick O'Grady
Editor-in-Chief

Michelle Gavagan, Lori Steffensen
Advertising Consultants

Erik Maurer, Mona Lisa Navarrette, Erica Odello, Chris Pitts, Chris Williams
Advertising Designers

Terri Rodgers
Circulation Director

Barb Wandling
Marketing & Brand Manager

Charlene Bisson
President & CEO

YourValley.net

Take the Civility Pledge
Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/.

This publication is offered free of charge in an effort to keep our neighbors informed, as well as to support the local business owners who make up our community. Please support their business. Every effort is made to avoid errors, misspellings and omissions.
If an error comes to your attention, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us.

This newspaper is recyclable, biodegradable and contains recycled materials.

Copyright 2026. All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be printed or reproduced without the publication's permission. *Independent Newsmedia Inc., USA*, assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MORE ONLINE
See more news at yourvalley.net

P&Z recommends multifamily housing at new development

A developer is requesting a rezoning of a 25-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Ellsworth and Queen Creek roads to allow for multifamily housing.

The Queen Creek Planning & Zoning Commission recently recommended approval of the rezoning. Called the Union at Ellsworth, the site is currently zoned for commercial mixed-use development. Creation Equity LLC wants the rezoning to allow for five apartment buildings on a 6.5-acre parcel at the southern end of the 25-acre development, according to a staff report.

The five apartment buildings would have a combined 250 units and could be up to five stories tall.

The original plan had the apartment complex located on the northwest corner of the Union at Ellsworth project. By moving the proposed apartment complex to the southwest corner, it will now be adjacent to the Acero Queen Creek apartment complex south of 206th Place.

Union at Ellsworth is split into four categories with two being for commercial retail and office, one for multifamily housing and one for a hotel. The developer will also add some off-site infrastructure such as roads.

The town has approved site plans for the two commercial sections but Creation Equity must still seek approvals for the apartment complex and the hotel.

Rezoning recommendation must still go before the Queen Creek Town Council for final approval. Read more at yourvalley.net.



Queen Creek's Planning & Zoning Commission is recommending that a portion of the mixed-use development, the Union at Ellsworth, be rezoned to allow a 250-unit apartment complex along with retail. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)

Council approves MAG agreement for road project reimbursement

The Queen Creek Town Council approved a project agreement with the Maricopa Association of Governments that will allow reimbursement for a more than $19 million project on Hawes Road.

The "Hawes Road: Rittenhouse Road to Jude Drive" project will widen the road by two lanes in each direction. It also includes a center turn lane and bicycle lanes, according to a staff report.

"At the intersection of Hawes Road and Queen Creek Road, the existing temporary traffic signal will be replaced with a modern multilane roundabout. The project will also enhance drainage in the area through construction of new drainage channels and basins," the report continued.

The current estimated cost of the project is more than $19.3 million, and the maximum regional reimbursement amount available is almost $14 million.

For the town to be reimbursed, it must provide a minimum 30% funding match which will be paid through transportation development fees and dedicated construction sales taxes.

Once MAG signs the project agreement, the town can begin construction.

Read more at yourvalley.net

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Nov. 3, 2010
Queen Creek's Parks and Recreation Department received the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association's Outstanding Program Awards, Community and Neighborhood Special Event award for their Passport to Discovery event held on March 27, 2010.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

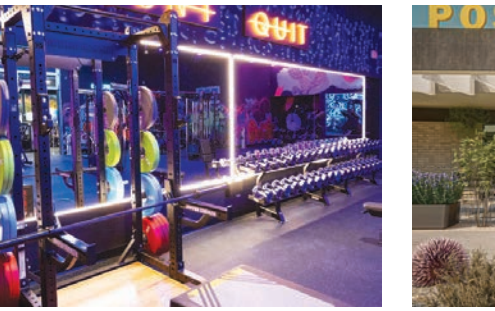
MORE ONLINE
See more Business news at yourvalley.net.



Mayor Julia Wheatley, far right, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Banner Ironwood Medical Center's expansion. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)



The Old Ellsworth Brewing Company received a visit from America's Best Restaurants as part of its ABR Roadshow. (Old Ellsworth Brewing Company)



EōS Fitness is now open in San Tan Valley at Skyline Ranch Marketplace. (Submitted photo/Dave Seibert)



Postino will be opening its 3,800-square-foot space at The Switchyard at the end of the month. (Submitted photo/Creation).

Banner Ironwood's expansion underway

Banner Ironwood Medical Center in Queen Creek has started work on an expansion of its emergency department.

Banner Ironwood, 37000 N. Gantzel Road, is adding more than 32,000 square feet to the facility.

The construction will add a new two-story building to its existing emergency department. The new space will house an interventional radiology suite with pre- and post-op space, as well as providing additional room for future growth, according to a Banner Health press release. The project will also expand the emergency department's lobby.

Project work is being led by Archsol for architecture and Mortenson for construction. The new space is expected to be completed by December 2027.

Old Ellsworth Brewing gets national spotlight

Old Ellsworth Brewing Company hosted a visit from America's Best Restaurants for part of the ABR Roadshow.

America's Best Restaurants travels the country spotlighting independent, locally owned restaurants that make a positive impact on their communities.

"We are honored to appear and be featured on America's Best Restaurants," Old Ellsworth Brewing Company owner Christine McKean stated in a press release. "We are excited to bring this exposure to the Queen Creek community."

Old Ellsworth Brewing Company began with a shared interest in craft beer among its founders, who started home brewing after their time in Alaska. The eatery opened in Queen Creek in 2017 and offers a variety of dishes along with its brews.

The completed episode will be aired on social media channels at a later date. Read more at yourvalley.net

EōS Fitness arrives in San Tan Valley

EōS Fitness in San Tan Valley is now open.

The 40,000 square-foot, full-service gym located at Skyline Ranch Marketplace, 1404 W. Hunt Highway, opened on Sept. 30.

This is EōS Fitness' first location in San Tan Valley and its 47th in Arizona.

The 24-hour gym offers cardio and strength equipment, recovery offerings, smart technologies, group fitness classes and personal training options.

The gym also has a cardio theater where members can watch big-screen movies while working out.

Other amenities include a dedicated camera-friendly space for content creators outfitted with strength equipment, an indoor green turf functional training area, an outdoor workout area and a recovery room, featuring massage chairs and ambient lighting.

EoS Fitness has more than 225 gyms open or on the way in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Southern California, Texas and Utah.

Phase one of The Switchyard completed

Phase one of construction on The Switchyard in downtown Queen Creek has been completed.

"We have our first tenants planning to open by the end of (October). That'll be Postino and V O Med Spa," Jagger Everett, vice president of development for developer Creation Equity, said. "Currently we have 12 tenants signed at this project. Eight of those 12 tenants are going to be opening in the next six months."

The $120 million mixed-use development encompasses 10 acres on the northeast corner of Ellsworth Loop and East Ocotillo roads. It will have 54,000 square feet of restaurant, retail and office space, plus a 215-residence luxury apartment community.

There will be seven buildings on the site — four single-story buildings with office, retail and restaurant space, and three four-story buildings that will house 215 apartment units and office space.

The Switchyard will open in phases. The residential portion of the project is currently in the design phase.

Everett added that the site opening is 82% preleased, and the company expected to start constructing a second building just south of Victoria Lane at the end of October.

Send us your news & photographs to aznews@iniusa.org

CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING GRADES PREK-12TH







#1 SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ARIZONA!

-NICHE.COM and RANKING ARIZONA

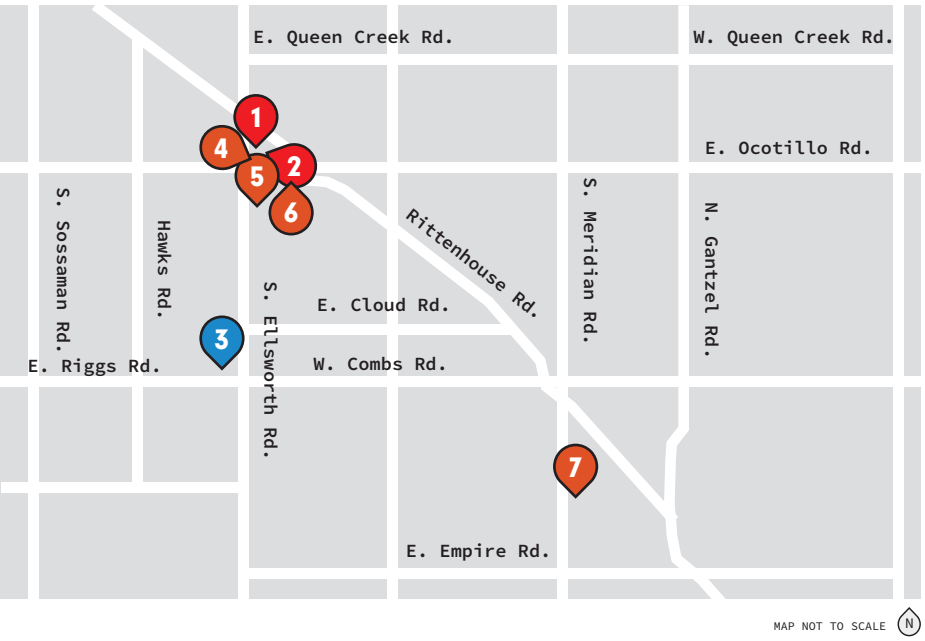
YOUR CHILD, YOUR CHOICE

- Gifted Programs
- Honors Classes
- Accelerated Schools
- College Prep
- Dual Enrollment
- Athletics & Fine Arts
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Advanced Placement
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

BOOK A SCHOOL TOUR TODAY!

CUSD80.COM @CHANDLERUNIFIED

BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

COMING SOON

1 Postino
21791 S. Ellsworth Loop Road, Suite 101

The popular wine bar Postino is expected to open its new location in downtown Queen Creek this fall. The restaurant is located at The Switchyard, a $120 million mixed-use development on the northeast corner of Ellsworth Loop and East Ocotillo roads. The development will have 54,000 square feet of restaurant, retail and office space, plus a 215-residence luxury apartment community.

2 V/O Med Spa
21789 S. Ellsworth Loop Road, Building C, Suite 102

V/O Med Spa is planning on opening in November in downtown Queen Creek at The Switchyard, a 10-acre, $120 million mixed-use development on the northeast corner of Ellsworth Loop and East Ocotillo roads. V/O Med Spa will offer injectables such as Botox, Jeuveau and Juvederm, as well as hydrafacials, dermaplaning and microneedling.

NOW OPEN

3 Rosati's Pizza
25166 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite B101

Rosati's Pizza opened its first Queen Creek location on Oct. 17. Owners Heather Kroll and her husband, Lee, also operate Rosati's Pizza locations in Chandler, Tempe and San Tan Valley. Queen Creek is their fourth Rosati's location. The grand opening benefited Fighter Country Foundation, a nonprofit that supports the men, women and families of Luke Air Force Base.

LIQUOR LICENSES

4 Snooze
21791 S. Ellsworth Loop Road, Suite 102

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving Snooze for a liquor license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. The restaurant is seeking Series 12 restaurant license. A Series 12 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.

5 Kilkenny's Irish Pub
20736 E. Munoz St.

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving Kilkenny's Irish Pub for a liquor license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. The pub is seeking approval for a new Series 6 bar liquor license. A Series 6 authorizes the sale of beer, wine and distilled spirits

6 The Sacred Pint
22020 S. Ellsworth Road

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving The Sacred Pint for a liquor license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. The pub is seeking new Series 7 beer and wine bar liquor license. A Series 7 authorizes the sale of only beer and wine and is ideal for wine bars, craft beer taprooms and smaller eateries, a council staff report stated.

7 Queen Creek Nail Spa
37360 N. Gary Road, Suite 105d

The Queen Creek Town Council recommended approving Queen Creek Nail Spa for a liquor license from the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. The business is seeking new Series 7 beer and wine bar liquor license. A Series 7 authorizes the sale of only beer and wine and is ideal for wine bars, craft beer taprooms and smaller eateries, a council staff report stated.

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



POSTINO



V/O MED SPA



ROSATI'S PIZZA



THE SACRED PINT



ASPEN MEDICAL PLLC

NEUROPATHY PAIN RELIEF

Non-Surgical Treatment Options

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.

Call 480-796-1136 Now to Schedule Your FREE Consultation!

Our neuropathy treatment may be right for you if you suffer from the following:

Numbness
Losing Feeling in your hands or feet and sometimes experiencing the pins and needles feeling.

Prickling/Tingling
Painful prickling and tingling in the extremities is experienced by some of those with Peripheral Neuropathy.

Sharp Electric Pain
Feeling like you are being electrocuted, or touching a battery or electric fence. This feeling can be shocking and very uncomfortable.

Burning Pain
The slow burn, and heat feeling that some people get in their hands and feet.

Cramping & Discomfort
Muscle cramping or general discomfort of the joints can happen throughout the body.

Hurts to Walk
Having trouble walking, moving your feet, and being mobile is a very common symptom of Neuropathy.

Balance Problems
Feeling off balance, not being able to stand for long periods of time, and just feeling off is a very common symptom.

Diabetic Nerve Pain
Pain caused by diabetes can impact the nerves and cause Neuropathy. This pain can come at any time and last for days, months or more.

Restless Leg
The inability to stop moving your legs or other extremities. Unwanted movement and pain in the legs.

Arthritis
Inflammation and pain in the joints. This can impact almost any part of the body.

ASPEN MEDICAL PLLC

We accept Medicare and most major health insurance carriers

4540 E. Baseline Rd., STE 119 Mesa, AZ 85206
Appointments (480) 796-1136 | aspenmedaz.com



PET OF THE MONTH:
WE LOVE OUR PETS



JOIN THE FUN & SUBMIT YOUR PET TODAY

Email Richard at rdyer@iniusa.org or use the QR Code to save a step.

HE'S HOT

Gus is a 1-year-old yellow lab owned by the Marlar family of Queen Creek. Gus enjoys long walks, extra treats, an occasional nibble on a baseboard, and is looking forward to the fall weather. Gus is also an honorary member of Queen Creek Fire & Medical Department.

QCPD renews agreement with state for crash data

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The town has renewed an agreement with the state allowing the Queen Creek Police Department to access vehicle crash data.

Under the agreement, QCPD can get into the Arizona Department of Transportation's Crash Records Information System and Arizona Crash Information System to submit electronic crash records and access, retrieve and analyze crash data for traffic safety.

The Queen Creek Town Council unanimously voted to approve the agreement at its Oct. 21 meeting. The agreement was part of the council's consent agenda in which all items are handled through one motion and vote.

"The Queen Creek Police Department relies on electronic crash reporting and access to crash data to support traffic safety analysis, focused enforcement and efficient records management," according to a council staff report. "The proposed agreement renews this relationship and maintains the department's ability to submit electronic crash records and retrieve and analyze crash information for traffic safety purposes."

The town first entered in a data access/exchange agreement with ADOT in 2021.

The Crash Records Information System allows QCPD to submit and retrieve electronic crash records. The Arizona Crash Information System provides access to crash data queries and safety analysis.

"Continued access supports QCPD's ability to identify crash trends, evaluate contributing factors and determine where focused traffic safety efforts are needed," the report continued. "This information helps the department prioritize high-risk locations, direct traffic enforcement and high visibility enforcement deployments, and evaluate whether those efforts are associated with changes in crash patterns."

The data can also support the town's transportation planning by evaluating roadway and intersection safety.

Through electronic submission, QCPD can transmit crash records directly to the state, allowing only authorized personnel to retrieve crash information and conduct analysis as needed.

"The agreement limits access to authorized personnel and contractors and restricts use of the systems to approved purposes," the report stated. "It establishes requirements for secure equipment and locations, individual user credentials, access controls and encryption of personal or sensitive information stored or transmitted over external or public networks."

Password sharing is prohibited and ADOT must approve any third-party processing or use of data. QCPD must also maintain a log or register of ADOT records requested and keep those logs for five years.

The five-year agreement will become effective once it is approved by ADOT. Three additional five-year extensions are allowed through written amendments.


Hand Crafted Smoked
Turkeys and Hams Since 1979
Taking Orders
for Thanksgiving
Place Order Now!
OPEN:
Tues.-Sat. 8-5pm · Sun 9-3pm
3359 E. Combs
Queen Creek, AZ 85140
(480) 987-0101
theporkshopaz.com
Fresh Sausages
Smoked Sausage
Hand Made Bacon
Fresh Pork Cuts
BBQ Pork
Smoked Beans
Burritos
Tamales & More!
Superstition Frwy (US 60)
Power Rd.
Ellsworth
Grantzel/Ironwood
Schnepf Rd.
THE PORK SHOP
Rittenhouse
Riggs Rd.
Riggs Rd./Combs Rd.
Cloud Rd.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO-DO LIST

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

About: 9-11 a.m., Nov. 7, Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre, 20464 E. Riggs Road

Info: 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.

Web: queencreekaz.gov

QC RECYCLES DROP-OFF

About: 7-11 a.m., Nov. 14, 19715 S. 220th St.

Info: 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.

Web: queencreekaz.gov

QUEEN CREEK FAMILY

About: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 14 & 28, Schnepf Farms, 24810 S. Rittenhouse Road

Info: 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.

Web: queencreekfamilymarket.com



Pancake Breakfast (Submitted Photo/Queen Creek)

PUZZLES & PIE

About: 5-7 p.m., Nov. 17, Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center, 22343 E. Ryan Road

Info: 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.

Web: queencreekaz.gov

• See **Things to Do** Page **14**

YOUR EVENTS, PLEASE

We welcome your events for our neighborhood To-Do List page. Please send the following for publication in our calendar: name of the event, time, date and location with address and if there is a cost to attend. Email us: **aznews@iniusa.org**

IN EVENTS

The Mesa Independent will host the Mesa Senior Expo Friday, Nov. 13 at 10550 E. Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85209. Individuals wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team. Email us: **azads@iniusa.org**



AModo Mio
PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA
CUCINA ITALIANA

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

BROOKLYN V's PIZZA



$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



Voted Best BBQ in Queen Creek

WOODBARN BBQ

23670 S Power Rd
Ste. 101, Queen Creek,
480-988-6451
woodbarnbbq.com
Hours
11:00 am - 07:00 pm

Sunday Family PICNIC
ONLY $49!!!
1/2 lb brisket • 1/2 lb pork
1/2 slab ribs • 4 buns
2 pints sides (your choice)
Available Sundays only. Dine in or take out. 11 am to 7pm

Lunch Special
1 Sandwich
(Pork, Brisket, Turkey or Sausage)
1 Side
(Mac, Slaw, Beans, Chili, Potato Salad)
1 Drink
(Fountain, Rootbeer, Sarsparilla or Bottle Water)
All for $16 +tax
Weekdays from 11am to 4pm



Make your holiday easy:
Pre-order your
THANKSGIVING MEAL!
Voted Best in the Valley

WELCOME to DELICIOUS



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

VERO
CHICAGO PIZZA

CHICAGO'S BEST RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY.

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

★2025★
WINNER
EAST VALLEY FAVORITES
INDEPENDENT
YourValley.net

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

Godfather's Pizza
Build Your Own Feast
Featuring New Cherry Cheesecake Streusel
$34.99 Limited Time Only
Get a Medium Specialty Pizza, a Medium 1-Topping Pizza and our NEW Small Cherry Cheesecake Streusel

FREE DESSERT with Medium, Large or Jumbo Pizza Purchase
Not Available Online
Coupon Code: QC7010
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 12/31/26.

LARGE 1-Topping Pizza, Cheesesticks* & Dessert for $29.99
Not Available Online
Coupon Code: QC7009
*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 12/31/26.

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

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 I WWW.THESHOOTINGRANGEAZ.COM
18618 S 186TH WAY QUEEN CREEK , ARIZONA 85142

Things to Do

• From page 12



BYU Young Ambassadors/Bye, Bye Birdie (Submitted photo/QCPAC)

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

About: 7 p.m., Nov. 13, Queen Creek Performing Arts Center, 22149 E. Ocotillo Road

Info: 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.

Web: qcpac.com

BYE, BYE BIRDIE

About: Nov. 27-30, Queen Creek Performing Arts Center, 22149 E. Ocotillo Road

Info: 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."

Web: qcpac.com

FESTIVAL & PARADE

About: Parade - 8:30-11 a.m.; Festival - 4-9 p.m., Nov. 21, Gilbert Regional Park, 3005 E. Queen Creek Road, Gilbert

Info: 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.

Web: gilbertaz.gov



Queen Creek Family Market on Page 12. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek Family Market)

SCHNEPF FARMS

About: Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 27- Dec. 27; Monday-Sunday, Dec. 21-27, Schnepf Farms 24810 S. Rittenhouse Road

Info: It transforms into a winter wonderland during 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.

Web: schnepffarms.com

JUNIOR PARADA PARADE

About: 10-11 a.m., Nov. 28,

• See **Things to Do** Page **15**



Christmas at Schnepf Farms (Submitted photo/Arianna Grainey)



Drip system workshop (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)



Kick off the holiday season with the town's Christmas tree lighting celebration. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)



The Queen Creek Hometown Christmas Parade is Dec. 6. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)

Things to Do

• From page 14

Historic Downtown, Florence

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

Web: florenceaz.gov

WATER WORKSHOP

About: 9-11 a.m., Nov. 7, Queen Creek Library, Zane Grey Room, 21802 S. Ellsworth Road

Info: 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.

Web: queencreekaz.gov

TREE LIGHTING

About: 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5 at Queen Creek Town Center, 21802 S. Ellsworth Road.

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

CHRISTMAS PARADE

About: 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 6 at Town Center, 21802 S. Ellsworth Road.

Info: Annual holiday parade is now a town of Queen Creek signature event. After 10 years, the Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Queen Creek handed over production of the parade to the town.



RELIGION IN BRIEF

Saturday Nights at Rock Point

Rock Point Church, 24759 S. Power Road, hosts Saturday Nights at Rock Point, from 4-7 p.m. every Saturday. Come enjoy a different family-friendly activity each weekend, whether it's water slides, bounce houses, movie nights or games, along with a food truck.

Starting at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, the church will also hold We Are Rock Point. It's an opportunity for new and longtime members to learn more about Rock Point Church. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Women's retreat

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 20615 E. Ocotillo Road, is holding its Abundant Grace's Beloved! retreat from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 14. The retreat will feature The Rev. John Lankeit. Registration is $50 per person.

The church will also host a Single Senior Social Group Ministry Meeting starting at 1:30 p.m., Nov. 9. The ministry provides fellowship, compassion and friendship to single seniors. For more information contact Gail Biesen, 480-999-8744.

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. 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.

Calling all moms

Central Christian Church, 22505 E. Ocotillo Road, offers a welcoming community for moms with children from birth through preschool.

MomCo is a community of moms growing in faith, friendship and support one week at a time. Come as you are, coffee in hand tots in tow. MomCo starts at 9:30 a.m., Nov. 5 & 19.

Central Christian Church also offers a weekly Student Ministry for students in seventh-12 grade. The ministry starts at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 4, 11 & 18. Students can build community, worship with other students and also learn more about their faith



Join the women's retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe. (Our Lady of Guadalupe Facebook page)



San Tan Valley mother wins free AC unit

A single mother of six from San Tan Valley received a major Halloween treat.

Martha Rose was the winner of Semper Fi Heating & Cooling's Halloween AC Unit Giveaway.

Rose's air conditioning unit had stopped working, so she and a neighbor "have been doing everything they can to keep the unit running with temporary fixes, but she was reaching a point where she feared she might have to resort to window units or find another solution," according to a press release.

"Martha comes from a family of veterans, and when she found out she was our winner, she was beyond excited," the release continued. "She shared that she never wins anything, which makes this moment even more special."



Martha Rose, far left, and her children were surprised recently by members of the Semper Fi Heating & Cooling team with a new air conditioning unit. (Semper Fi Heating & Cooling)

A team from Semper Fi recently rolled up to Rose's house with her new air condition unit and installed it for her.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to make a difference for Martha and her family and bring some much-needed relief and peace of mind to their home," the release stated.

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

Top-Rated Dog Grooming
WOOF GANG BAKERY & GROOMING
Your Neighborhood Pet Store
85 W COMBS RD #102 SAN TAN VALLEY, AZ 85140
404.860.1634 WOOFGANGBAKERY.COM
STORE HOURS:
MON - SAT 9AM - 7PM
SUN 10AM - 6PM
$5 OFF! RETAIL PURCHASE OF $25 OR MORE! (EXCLUDES GROOMING SERVICES)

Mediacom
PRICE for LIFE! $
INTERNET
Queen Creek Residents, here's your chance to get our greatest offer of all time.
1 Gig Internet
$50*/mo. for LIFE!
Plus tax.
Don't miss this exclusive deal!
844-913-4678

*One-time/other costs. Package includes 1 Gig Internet, modem, and one (1) wireless router; Mediacom selects and may substitute equipment with a comparable device at any time (no specific brand or model, including eero, is guaranteed). Advertised price excludes monthly taxes. "Price For Life" Offer: Offer ends December 31, 2026. The $50/mo recurring monthly service charge will not increase so long as the same subscriber maintains this exact package (1 Gig Internet, modem/ONT, and wireless router) in continuous active service, at the same address, with payments current. "For life" refers to the life of the subscription, not the subscriber's lifetime, and locks only the recurring monthly service charge; taxes, surcharges, fees, and any one-time, equipment, or usage-based charges may change. If any package component is cancelled, changed, downgraded, or otherwise modified, the offer terminates and standard rates apply. See https://mediacomcable.com/legal/price-for-life for full terms and conditions. Standard rates may change; see https://mediacomcable.com/rate-card/. ^^Free Installation: A one-time installation credit will be applied to the first bill. **3 Months Free: A monthly service charge credit will be applied to the 1st, 13th, and 25th billing statements. ††$200 Gift Card: Eligibility requires subscribing to Internet 1 Gig with installation completed. Not available to current/recent Mediacom Internet customers or those with past due balances, unreturned equipment, amnesty offers within the past 6 months, or pending disconnections. Limit one (1) per account; emailed approximately 6-8 weeks after installation. †Upstream Usage Threshold: Advertised speeds are for wired connections; actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed (see https://mediacomcable.com/legal/internet-broadband-disclosures/). Upstream usage exceeding 1 TB may result in up to 50% upload speed reduction for the remainder of the billing month. ^Wireless Router: The router provided may be a third-party product (e.g., eero) subject to the manufacturer's disclaimers, including those at eero.com/legal/disclaimer. General Terms: For new subscribers only; not combinable with other offers; may be changed, discontinued, or terminated at any time without notice; non-transferable; subject to applicable law. Billing is monthly in advance; subscription auto-renews until cancelled with 7 days' notice. All trademarks are property of their respective owners. Privacy Notice https://mediacomcable.com/legal/privacy-notice.

REAL ESTATE

MORE ONLINE
Find more real estate news online at YourValley.net.

September housing sales in Queen Creek drop, prices increase

By Janet Perez
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Queen Creek's single-family housing market is proving to be a study in sharp contrasts.

"The overall picture is a market with fewer transactions and longer selling times, but not necessarily declining values," Sammy Glassman, board president of Phoenix Realtors, a local association for Valley Realtors, said of the town's housing market in September.


Sammy Glassman

Year-over-year in September, buyer activity slowed significantly with pending sales down 50.7% and closed sales down 27.3%.

"Homes are also taking longer to sell, with days on market increasing nearly 30% to 96 days," Glassman said.

But even as sales activity slowed, prices continued to rise.

The median sales price increased 10.7% to $691,747, while the average rose 13.1% to $795,836. The percent of list price received dropped slightly by 0.6%.

"Those increases should be interpreted carefully because changes in the mix and price points of homes sold can significantly affect median and average prices, particularly when the total number of sales declines," Glassman said.

Housing inventory in September decreased by 1.6%, while new listings fell 15.3%. Meanwhile, the months supply of housing rose to 4.7 months, "giving buyers more leverage and making Queen Creek one

• See **Homes** Page **19**

HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS ISSUE?

Want to contribute to the conversation? Email us at **azopinions@iniusa.org**



two maids
A Maid Service Worth Talking About

FALL SPECIAL
$100 OFF
Recurring Cleaning
($20 off first 5 visits) Offer expires 11-30-26.

$150 OFF
Deep Clean or Move In/ Move Out Clean
First time customers only. One time use with coupon. Offer expires 11-30-26.



License #00825-2018

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US #1 HOUSE CLEANING!

480-550-8282 • TwoMaidsCleaning.com



Queen Creek's housing market saw a drop in sales but an increase in prices. (Special to Independent Newsmedia/Arianna Grainey)

Homes

• From page 18

of the more buyer-friendly markets in the area," Glassman said.

"The higher months supply is therefore being driven less by a surge of new inventory and more by slower sales activity," she said. "Sellers should expect buyers to be selective and negotiate, while buyers have more time and leverage despite fewer new homes coming to market."

In the Phoenix-metro area, closed sales dropped 4.9% year over year in September, and new listings fell 3.7% compared to last year. Pending sales plummeted 40.1%, according to data from Phoenix Realtors. Inventory rose 6.7% despite fewer new listings hitting the market.

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

QUEEN CREEK HOUSING MARKET IN SEPTEMBER

New listings: 182 (-15.3%)
Pending sales: 73 (-50.7%)
Closed sales: 104 (-27.3%)
Days on market until sale: 96 (+29.7%)
Median sales price: $691,747 (+10.7%)
Average sales price: $795,836 (+13.1%)
Percent of list price received: 97.9% (-0.6%)
Inventory of homes for sale: 599 (-1.6%)
Months supply of inventory: 4.7 (+6.8%)
*Source: Phoenix Realtors





EAST VALLEY SPORTS

MORE ONLINE
Find high school sports stats online at YourValley.net.

Queen Creek teen competed in Junior Olympics

A Queen Creek teen finished strong at the 2026 USA Track & Field National Junior Olympics championships over the summer.

Nathan Starr, 17, a senior at ASU Prep Polytechnic, finished 11th in the 1,500-meter race at the event in Norwalk, California, with a time of 4 minutes and 12 seconds.

"My racing journey started in eighth grade after a friend said I should join the cross-country team for ASU Prep, and I decided to give running a try," Starr stated in a press release.

At ASU Prep, Starr met the coach who helped ignite a passion for the sport. Since then, he has dedicated himself to training, recovery and nutrition, and always looking for ways to improve.



Queen Creek resident and ASU Prep Polytechnic student finished 11th in the 1,500-meter race at the 2026 USA Track & Field National Junior Olympics championships over the summer. (ASU Prep)

"Running has taught me that progress doesn't happen overnight, it comes from showing up every day and trusting the work you put in," he stated in the release, adding that knowing he can always get faster and stronger is what motivates him to strive higher.

As an ASU Prep Polytechnic STEM High School student, Starr is able to take advantage of Family Choice Day on Fridays, which gives him the flexibility to work from home and spend extra time running or weightlifting, as well as taking ASU classes and exploring his future college major.

Nathan is now looking ahead to graduation and hopes to run at the collegiate level.

LIKE US ONLINE
Find us on social media @yourvalley



Eagle Scout

• From page 1

American Legion had a project which was at the San Tan Memorial Gardens and they wanted a flagpole installed," Courtright said. "That piqued my interest."

Initially, Benavides expected the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Duane Ellsworth American Legion Post 129, Troop 738 of Queen Creek, to volunteer for the project. But Courtright of Troop 10 from Mesa stepped up first. But he made sure to invite members of Troop 738 to help, along with his fellow Air Force JROTC students from Higley.

"It was cool to see that Troop 738 was out there as well," Benavides said.

The flagpole wasn't the only task Courtright accomplished at San Tan Memorial Gardens. Over the two weekends of the main flagpole project, Courtright and his crew of volunteers also cleared out brush and leaves surrounding a section of graves.

"At least like 25 to 30 volunteers who came to my project. I only need about five of them working at the flagpole, so I needed something else for the rest of the volunteers to do," Courtright said. "I talked to Dillon about it and he said they had a lot of brush that they would like to be cleaned up on the perimeter because people come in to visit their loved and the graves are right there next to the fence with all the brush."

Courtright oversaw as his team of volunteers filled 112 extra-large black garbage bags with brush and leaves

Work on the flagpole had to be a bit more precise.

"It went right next to the mausoleum, and the mausoleum is about 14.5 feet tall. I had to measure how tall the flagpole needed to be, and I had to get the measurements of the flags and make sure they're not hitting the building," Jett said. "I wanted the flagpole to be taller than the mausoleum, so and I had to get blueprints of the mausoleum, and I had to get exact measurements."



Jett Courtright, 15, measures the location where his team will install a flagpole at San Tan Memorial Gardens at Schnepf Farms as part of his Eagle Scout project. (Cherise Courtright)

On the first day, Courtright's team dug a 3.5-foot-deep hole, 24 inches in diameter. The next day, the volunteers poured concrete into the hole, and the flagpole was installed soon after.

"I did make sure that I had a solar light on the pole, so the flags are able to stay up at night and the solar light will be shining down on the flags," Courtright said.

A few days after the flagpole was installed, Courtright and his father, Cody Courtright, joined Benavides in raising American and prisoner of war flags.

And as it turns out, Courtright wasn't the only Eagle Scout there. Benavides became an Eagle Scout around 2010, and Courtright's father earned his Eagle Scout rank in 1995. Cody Courtright is thrilled his son is following in his footsteps.

• See Flagpole Page 26







SPORTS IN BRIEF

MORE ONLINE
See more Education news at yourvalley.net.

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 through Dec. 31. Sign up queencreekaz.gov

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.



Registration is now open for January men's league play. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)

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.

Get your fitness on

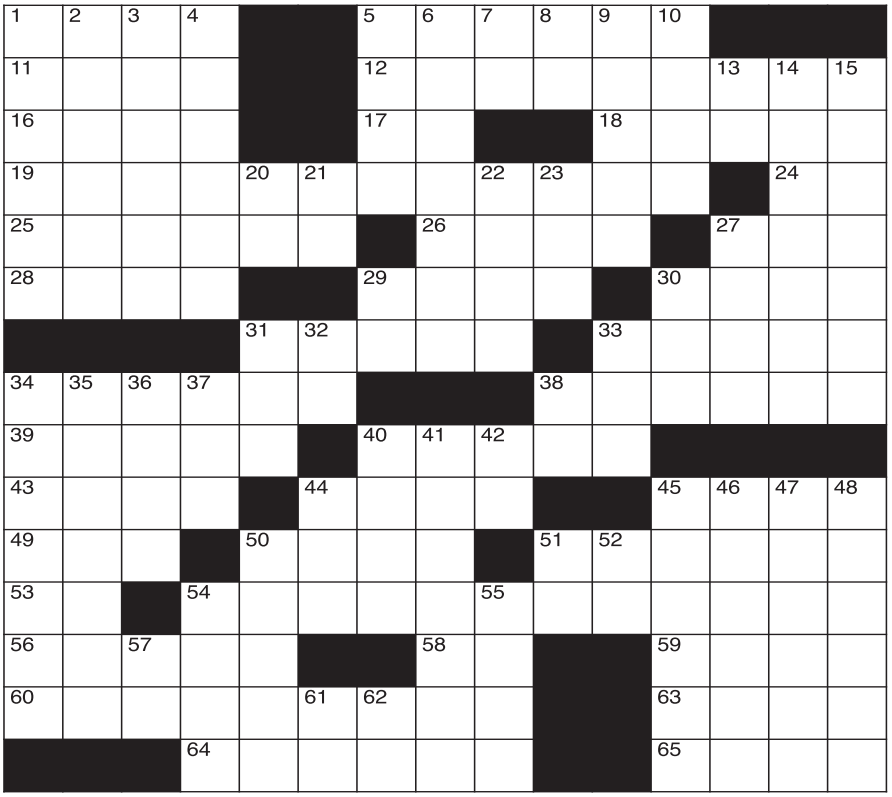
Find the right fitness routine at the Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center, 22343, E. Ryan Road. The center offers a variety of classes and programs, including yoga, Pilates, strength training, dance, water fitness and more to help you reach your wellness goal.



The Queen Creek Recreation & Aquatic Center has a variety of fitness classes for all ages. (Submitted photo/Queen Creek)



CROSSWORD BY METRO CREATIVE SERVICES



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26

Confused by Medicare or health insurance?



I can help!

Gitty Stafford
Licensed Insurance Producer
(425) 870-6262
gstafford@HealthMarkets.com
HealthMarkets.com/gstafford

Consultations at no cost to you. Call today!

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency
Health | Medicare | Small Group
Life | Supplemental

health markets

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency, Inc. is licensed as an insurance agency nationwide except in MA. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state.
Sales agents may be compensated based on enrollment. No obligation to enroll.
©2026 HealthMarkets
52667-HM-0926

MUSIC • COMEDY • JOUSTING • FEASTING
GAMES • RIDES • SHOPPING



39TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL™
& ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

NINE FESTIVE WEEKENDS
FEB. 6-APR. 4
Sat., Sun., & Pres. Day • 10am-6pm

SAVE WITH DISCOUNT TICKETS AT:
Bashas' & FOOD CITY

PEPSI DELTA BUD LIGHT GUINNESS GOLD CANYON GOLF RESORT & SPA SUNSTATE Equipment Co.

TICKETS, DIRECTIONS & FESTIVAL INFO: ARIZONA.RENFESTINFO.COM

Irrigation

• From page 1

sued its notice of intent on Sept. 16 to create a new water resource fee, several irrigation customers asked that the fee be restructured. The proposed fee would pay for the town's purchases of Harquahala groundwater and the infrastructure needed to bring it to town.

On Nov. 18, the council will take action on the proposed water resource fee that would start at $3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water, based on metered use. Increases to the fee would be phased in incrementally, and the council would have to approve an increase each year for at least the first six years of the new fee.

The proposal also includes a credit based on the water the town receives back through the wastewater system to offset groundwater pumping. The proposed credits would be given to residents with a combined water and wastewater town utility account.

The financial impact could be substantial for residents with large lots who use irrigated water and do not have a combined water and wastewater account with the town utility.

Resident Gary Ellers told council during the Sept. 16 meeting that he and his neighbors are already paying a fee for irrigated water.

"I plugged in my numbers to the town system for year one (and) my total cost will be $7,700 for the first year," Ellers said. "By year six, my annual water bill will be just under $21,000 for one year. The cumulative cost for all six years is over $83,000. I'm going to have to sell both my kidneys at that point."

The process of transferring the irrigation accounts to the irrigation district is estimated to be about 12 months. During that time, the town will be picking up the cost of the new fee for irrigation water.

"We would recommend moving forward and creating an exemption for the flood irrigation water use until the assets are transferred to QCID. From a modeling perspective, and setting the rates and fees, that is estimated to cost about $1.4 million a year in the first year," Deputy Town Manager and Chief Financial Officer Scott McCarty told the council. "The exemption would not cause any other customers under the premise of the new fee to pay more."

The town would pay for the one-year exemption costs through its operating budget.

"They're still responsible for paying the new water resource fee for their potable water or all water that's not flood irrigation," McCarty said. "This exemption, again, just applies to flood irrigation."

The 500 irrigation customers are spread out over 20 subdivisions in the municipal planning area. The annual demand for water from those customers is 1,400-acre feet, according to a staff report.

"We believe (the irrigation district) sees potential in taking those customers and those assets on and that's why they're at the table willing to discuss," Assistant Town Manager Shea Joachim said.

Council will still have to vote on the final form of the agreement in the coming weeks.

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



SanTan MEMORIAL GARDENS at Schnepf Farms

4TH ANNUAL

WREATH'S ACROSS AMERICA

CEREMONY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

ON THE CEMETERY GROUNDS

Wreath Ceremony, Complimentary Refreshments and more!

Scan to Sponsor a Wreath to Be Placed on a Veteran's Gravesite →

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED ADS

VISIT US: INIUSA.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS | EMAIL US: AZADS@INIUSA.ORG

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAYS BY 3PM | OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9AM-4PM

EMAILS: azads@iniusa.org | legals@iniusa.org

AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

$20 PER MARKET · 30 WORDS

Your ad appears in the newspaper of choice plus online

$5 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 per inch after

(maximum size 8.55 inches)

Logo and photos included

4 weeks minimum

EMPLOYMENT ADS

STARTING AT $60

for one column by three-inch advertisement

$15 per inch after

(maximum size 8.55 inches)

Logo and photos included

No minimum commitment requirement

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL US AT 888-665-3848

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA
Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE

CREATE YOUR OWN ADS ONLINE, IT'S EASY!
Go to: INIUSA.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS
then select "Place and ad"

Announcement

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

Cellular

Consumer Cellular®
OVER 50? UNLIMITED FOR JUST $35/MONTH.
Backed by #1 Network Coverage and Customer Satisfaction.*
Switch & Save Today. **877-398-0956**
© 2026 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change. Plans shown above include $5 credit for AutoPay and E-billing. Taxes and other fees apply. Credit approval required for new service. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. For unlimited plans, high-speed data is reduced after 35GB on single-line plans and 50GB of combined usage on multi-line plans for the remainder of your billing cycle. Unlimited data plans only for customers age 50+. *2025 ACSI® Survey of customers rating their own wireless service provider. ACSI® and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI®, visit www.theacsi.org.

Electrical

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

Gutters

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

Hearing Care

Audien Hearing
The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.
No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.
Atom X
Call 844-915-3543 to get your 45-day risk free trial.

Electrical

BLUE STATE ELECTRIC LLC
480-798-3357
POWERING HOMES. ENERGIZING BUSINESSES.
480-798-3357
BlueStateElectric.com
LICENSED • INSURED • ROC #301948

LOOK HERE

If you are reading this, it proves advertising works.

TO ADVERTISE IN ANY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER:
888-665-3848 • AZADS@INIUSA.ORG

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

Landscaping



Miscellaneous



Painting



Remodeling





Sun Screens



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE 23

P	A	C	A	■	■	A	S	K	I	N	G	■	■	■
L	O	A	N	■	■	G	I	D	D	I	N	E	S	S
A	R	M	Y	■	■	E	D	■	■	D	U	B	A	I
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	E	S	■	M	A
M	A	R	A	C	A	■	M	A	C	S	■	D	I	M
A	L	A	Y	■	■	E	A	C	H	■	E	A	S	E
■	■	■	■	B	A	N	N	S	■	P	A	R	E	S
A	F	F	E	C	T	■	■	■	M	A	R	I	N	E
L	O	I	R	E	■	O	L	M	E	C	■	■	■	■
M	R	N	A	■	E	R	I	C	■	■	A	B	A	S
O	E	D	■	G	L	E	N	■	U	N	C	O	I	L
N	P	■	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	O	R	Y
D	A	L	E	A	■	■	M	O	■	■	O	B	I	E
S	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	N	■	■	R	O	E	S
■	■	■	O	S	C	I	N	E	■	■	S	O	R	T

Flagpole

• From page 21

"I always thought that maybe I was the only one to make Eagle, and so, he's carrying on that tradition which I hope he carries on with his kids later on in life," Cody Courtright said. "It's really cool because now he's going to be part of the brotherhood."

His mother, Cherise Courtright, admitted her son needed a little bit of pushing to get over the finish line.

"He's been trying to figure out a project for about a year. It's been stressful to say the least," she said. "We've been on him like, 'Come on, you got to do this, that, whatnot.' We're proud of him for finally getting it done."

Benavides was also impressed by Courtright and his accomplishments.

"He's a quiet kid and you can tell he's learning to come out of his shell," Benavides said. "It was really neat over the course of a few months to actually see him in a leadership position."

During the Veterans Day event at San Tan Memorial Gardens, Courtright and his volunteers, including the scouts from Troop 738, will be recognized by local officials.

"It feels really good to see that I'm able to help my own community. I'm able to show leadership and learn from this experience," Courtright said. "I went to the Memorial Day service that they had, and they were using a PVC pipe with an American flag um strapped to it. I thought they could do better than that.

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



GreatHearts®
Blossom Rock

Arizona's top-ranked classical education is *now enrolling!*

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

APPLY FOR THE 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR BY DEC. 31



HEATING PLUMBING COOLING

Scan for FREE Quote or Schedule Service



FALL SAVINGS!
NO INTEREST. NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2027 ON NEW SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS. OAC

Carrier

PRESIDENTS AWARD
FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER Carrier

10 YEAR WORRY FREE GUARANTEE ON NEW UNIT INSTALLATIONS
some restrictions apply, limited time only, call for details.



HOLIDAY TUNE UP SPECIAL

$20+ A DONATION
VALUED AT $25 OR MORE
-NON-PERISHABLE FOOD,
-NEW TOY WITH TAG,
-OR GIFT CARD
DONATIONS GO TO SUPPORT:
Children's cancer network

$89 VALUE!

YOUR TUNE UP INCLUDES:
- Inspect system performance
- Check electrical components
- Inspect condensate drain line
- Remove & change standard filter*
- Check refrigerant levels (if applicable)
- Inspect safety controls
- Check thermostat operation
- Inspect airflow and temperatures
- Lubricate moving parts (if applicable)
- And more!

* Customer supplied. Some restrictions may apply. Please mention this coupon when scheduling service. Cannot be combined with any other offers. **Expires 11/30/2026.**

WESTERN STATES
AC • HEAT • PLUMBING • INDOOR AIR QUALITY

FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES VALLEYWIDE
602-517-0375

HVAC ROC 349214
PLUMBING ROC 321722

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+ rating
Google Reviews 4.8 ★★★★★