



## 2018 Fireworks Shows

June 26, 2018 Staff Writers

Assuming the risk of fire doesn't force any bans or cancellations, fireworks and festivities are planned for several locations and dates around the Valley and into the high country. So far, shows have been cancelled in these locales: Prescott, Cave Creek, Flagstaff and Williams. Before you go to a show, check to make sure it's still happening.

### Anthem Fireworks

The town welcomes all comers to its 19th annual celebration. Local teen Sophia Humbert will sing the National Anthem at 9:25 p.m., with fireworks to follow. OK to bring: food, water, chairs, blankets, sunscreen. Not OK: alcohol. Ill-advised: pets (because of the noise). Water slides and inflatables\* Food vendors & beer garden DJ and dancing  
6-10 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 3  
Anthem Community Park  
41703 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway  
\*Wristbands for rides are \$15, or \$12 in June at the Civic Building or Community Center.

FRIDAY 6.29

### Freedom Fest

Through Thursday, July 5  
Fairmont Scottsdale Princess  
7575 E. Princess Drive, Scottsdale  
480-585-2706  
Free/Resort residents and restaurant guests  
Watermelon-eating contests, foam and glow parties, mermaid story time, treasure hunts, concerts, dive-in movies, patriotic programs, vintage air show and fireworks. See schedule online.

SATURDAY 6.30

### After Dark in the Park

6:30-9 p.m.  
Deer Valley Park

19602 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix  
602-495-3735

Free

Inflatable fun zone, food truck row, community resource booths and a fireworks show.

TUESDAY 7.3

### Independence Celebration

3-4:30 p.m.

The Enclave at Anthem  
42015 N. Venture Drive  
623-201-3161

youth4troops@gmail.com

Games, prizes and Kona Ice. A portion of the proceeds benefit Youth for Troops care packages.

### Anthem Country Club:

#### Independence Day Celebration

7-10 p.m.

Anthem Country Club: Persimmon Clubhouse

2708 W. Anthem Club Drive  
623-742-6222

Bounce houses, face painting, food, music, entertainment and of course, fireworks. Anthem Country Club members only. Reservations required.

### Lake Pleasant July Fireworks!

9-9:30 p.m.

#### Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

Discovery Center

39345 N. Overlook Road, Peoria  
928-501-1700

\$7/Vehicle

Watch from your air-conditioned vehicle or enjoy the evening heat on the new patio. First-come, first-served seating and parking.

### Wet 'n' Wild Fireworks

8:45 p.m.

Wet 'n' Wild Water Park

4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road,  
Glendale  
623-201-2000

info@wetnwildphoenix.org

\$40.99/Daily Fee; Free/Season Pass Holders

Celebrate with fireworks after a long day of fun in the sun.

WEDNESDAY 7.4

### Scottsdale 4th of July Celebration

4-9:30 p.m.

WestWorld of Scottsdale

16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale  
480-312-6815

\$15/Adults; \$12/Children ages 3-12; \$45/Family 4-pack; \$20/One car fireworks only

Celebrate in the cool indoors with a stunt dog show, a Jurassic dinosaur exhibit, pony rides, a petting zoo, carnival rides, obstacle courses, a bull riding rodeo, electric animal rides and fireworks.

### Firework Fest

5-9 p.m.

Westgate Entertainment District  
6751 N. Sunset Blvd., Glendale  
623-930-4500

Free

Live music and activities for the whole family. Bring blankets and chairs.

### Fabulous Phoenix 4th

6-10 p.m.

Steele Indian School Park  
300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix  
602-534-3378

Free

Two stages featuring international recording artists, festival-style food, arts and crafts, rides, inflatables, a water zone, fireworks and a classic car display. No outside fireworks or alcohol allowed.

### Fireworks Spectacular

6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tumbleweed Park

2250 S. McQueen Road, Chandler  
480-782-2735

\$5/Vehicle

Presentation of Colors by the U.S. Marine Corp, live music from School of Rock Sugar Skulls, a live DJ, corn hole, a coloring area, giveaways and fireworks.

### 4th of Zooly

7-10 p.m.

Phoenix Zoo

455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix



602-273-1341  
\$45/Ages 13 and up; \$35/Children ages 3–12; Free/Children under 3  
All-American BBQ dinner, carousal rides, stingray bay, animal encounters, inflatable slides, bounce house, music and fireworks viewing all at the lakeside lawn.

**Prescott Downtown Fireworks**

Noon–9 p.m.  
Prescott Mile High Middle School Field  
300 S. Granite St., Prescott  
928-499-9646

\$5/General Admission  
Live army bands, food vendors, inflatables, fireworks and a beer garden. [UPDATE: Prescott Fireworks have been cancelled, but the other events will go on as planned.]

**4th of July Home Town Celebration**

8 a.m.–9 p.m.  
Green Valley Park  
1000 W. Country Club Drive,  
Payson  
928-472-5110  
kbachtell@paysonaz.gov

Free  
Head North on the Fourth for a patriotic ceremony including a reading of the Declaration of Independence, live music from The Take Cover Band, a fireworks show, family games and activities.

**All-American Festival**

5 p.m.  
Peoria Sports Complex  
16101 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria  
623-773-8700  
\$7/Advance; \$10/Adults;  
Free/Children 12 and under  
Food challenges, corn hole tournament, water zone for kids, live music from The Ryan Sims Band and fireworks.

**Tempe Town Lake Festival**

5 p.m.  
Tempe Beach Park  
80 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe  
480-350-5189

\$7–\$8/Advance Tickets; \$10/Gate Admission  
Fireworks, food court, beer garden, Dave and Buster’s kid tent, rock wall climbing and an inflatable village for all ages. Live performances from City of Tempe Honor Guard, Kianna Martinez and Lane Change.

**Wet ‘n’ Wild Fireworks**

8:45 p.m.  
Wet ‘n’ Wild Water Park

**Search underway for missing veteran last seen north of Lake Pleasant**

Wednesday, June 27th 2018, 3:34 am MST  
Thursday, June 28th 2018, 8:46 am MST  
By Shane DeGrote, Content Producer  
Tucson News Now  
LAKE PLEASANT, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) –

Friends are beginning their search for a missing veteran who disappeared north of **Lake Pleasant** on June 21.

According to the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, **34-year-old Joseph Thomas Casey** went missing on June 21 at the north end of Lake Pleasant around 4:30 p.m.

Casey was seen getting into an unknown dark-colored vehicle after his 2005 Jeep Wrangler broke down.

He was attempting to get a ride out of the desert to get help.

MCSO said he has not been seen or heard from since.

Casey is described as a 5-foot-8-inch white male, weighing 185 pounds with black hair and hazel eyes. He was last seen wearing a stars-and-stripes shirt, grey basketball shorts and tennis shoes.

According to a [Facebook event](#), Casey’s friends have organized a search party Wednesday morning.

MCSO is asking for anyone with information on Casey’s whereabouts to call 602-876-8477.

**Peoria celebrates Independence Day July 3 & 4**

Posted: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 12:15 pm  
By CARY HINES, Assistant Editor | Peoria Times

Peoria will celebrate the Fourth of July from one end of the city to the other. Fireworks festivals are planned at two locations: the Peoria Sports Complex and **Lake Pleasant**.

Salute from the Shores is set to begin at 5 p.m. July 3 at Lake Pleasant’s Pleasant Harbor Marina, 8708 W. Harbor Blvd. The celebration will include live music, free activities for children, including water slides and bounce houses, and food and drink. Fireworks will start at 9 p.m.

Online advance admission is \$15 per vehicle; \$20 at the gate.

The All-American Festival will run from 5 to 10 p.m. July 4 at the Peoria Sports Complex, 16101 N. 83rd Ave.

The event will feature games, entertainment, live music, food-eating contests, a cornhole tournament, water inflatables and plenty of food and beverage, including beer. The cornhole tournament will begin at 5:30 p.m. and fireworks will start at about 9:15 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for anyone 13 and older; free to children 12 and



younger. Presale \$7 tickets are available through June 29 online at [www.peoriasportscomplex.com](http://www.peoriasportscomplex.com), by phone at 623-773-8700 or at the Peoria Sports Complex. Parking is free.

## Search intensifies for Peoria man last seen at Lake Pleasant

By: Nicole Garcia

Posted: Jun 27 2018 04:29PM MST

Video Posted: Jun 27 2018 05:09PM MST

Updated: Jun 27 2018 05:12PM MST

PEORIA, Ariz. - The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office says at this point, they don't believe there is any foul play involved in 34-year-old Joseph Casey's disappearance and are treating this as a missing persons case, but family and friends believe otherwise.

We spoke to a woman Casey was with at **Lake Pleasant** the day he went missing.

"Yeah, I think he's alive. He's too much of a tough cookie to not be alive," said Helena Ramirez.



Joseph Casey

Ramirez just recently met Casey, a Navy veteran who lives in Peoria. On June 21, the two of them took off in his Jeep and spent the day at the northern tip of Lake Pleasant, but the vehicle broke down and wouldn't start. Ramirez says he hitched a ride to get help.

"There's people at the top of the hill that were going to take him

somewhere to get help, so he walked up there, came back down and said goodbye and took off," she said. "He made it sound like he was going to be back.. but he never showed back up."

She was able to find a ride to Casey's house. Ramirez says he was not there, then got in her own car and left. When she didn't hear from him the next day, she reported him missing.

MCSO impounded Casey's 2005 Jeep Wrangler.

Ramirez says Casey left his keys and bank card with her.

It has now been nearly a week since anyone has seen or heard from Joseph Casey. More than a dozen of his friends and volunteers are scouring the area at Lake Pleasant, where he was last seen.

"If he is still out there, he's going to be very dehydrated, probably won't be able to speak or move. It's really a matter of trying to locate him as soon as possible," said a friend of Casey, Will Rollins. "He was last wearing gray shorts and a t-shirt with red, white and blue stars and stripes on it. We're looking for anything -- any kind of clothing on trees or bushes where he may have taken refuge or something."

MCSO says its detectives are actively searching for Casey, using rescue and cadaver dogs, searching different areas, trying to track him down.

Casey did have his cell phone with him when he disappeared. He's described as a white male, 5' 8" tall, weighing 185 pounds with black hair and hazel eyes.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office at 602-876-TIPS (8477).

## Taylor Morrison Debuts New Homes with Grand Opening in Peoria

Charming new homes are coming to Peoria at the Meadows master-planned community, with the grand opening of the Meadows Discovery Collection.

By Angelica VanAuken, Patch Poster | Jun 27, 2018 1:37 pm ET

Taylor Morrison Debuts New Homes with Grand Opening at the Meadows in Peoria

PHOENIX — Charming new homes are coming to Peoria at the Meadows master-planned community, with the grand opening of the Discovery Collection by Taylor Morrison, a leading national builder and developer.

The grand opening will take place on Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to tour three, professionally decorated model homes, the popular Lily, Indigo and Jasmine models.

"Taylor Morrison's grand opening at the Meadows offers homebuyers the opportunity to own a brand new Taylor Morrison home in an exciting location near shopping, dining, entertainment, and schools," said Andrea Murphy, vice president of sales and marketing for the Taylor Morrison Phoenix division.

Spacious and elegantly designed, Taylor Morrison at the Meadows will include features like expansive owners' suites with walk-in closets, spacious living areas, and flex spaces. Options include multi-slide doors that open up to outdoor living spaces, gourmet kitchens, additional bedrooms, and even more selections



with a professional design appointment.

Taylor Morrison at the Meadows offers six spacious floor plans from the Discovery Collection. These one- and two-story floor plans will range from approximately 1,570 to 2,936 sq. ft. and include up to six bedrooms, featuring two and three-car garages.

Taylor Morrison homes at the Meadows will include access to a private community center with a resort-style pool with lap lanes and a hot tub, tennis courts, bocce ball and pickle ball courts.

The Meadows is ideal for those looking for a new home in a lifestyle community with ample entertainment nearby. Residents can enjoy exceptional entertainment at the Peoria Sports Complex, which hosts spring training games, and Westgate Entertainment District, an upscale shopping center that includes the Gila River Arena, home of the Arizona Coyotes and a popular concert venue. Also nearby are Arrowhead Towne Center mall, the Peoria Center for Performing Arts, and outdoor recreation at Foothills Recreation & Aquatic Center and **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**.

The Meadows is located on the northeast corner of Deer Valley Road and Lake Pleasant Parkway in Peoria, AZ 85383. For driving directions, visit <http://bit.ly/2JylbZv>.

For more information about Taylor Morrison's Discovery Collection at the Meadows or the grand opening event, call 480-346-1738 or visit <https://www.taylormorrison.com/new-homes/arizona/peoria/meadows-discovery-collection-community>.

## Off-road groups search for missing man at Lake Pleasant

*Perry Vandell*, Arizona Republic  
Published 6:32 p.m. MT June 27, 2018

Members of several Arizona off-roading groups are scouring the area around Lake Pleasant for a man who hasn't been seen for nearly a week.

Joseph Casey, 34, was last spotted the afternoon of June 21 At the regional park northwest of Phoenix, a missing person report from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office shows.

The report says Casey was seen entering a dark-colored vehicle to get help after his 2005 Jeep Wrangler broke down.

Sgt. Calbert Gillett, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, his agency is investigating tips and looking for Casey.

Will Rollins, who knew Casey through a mutual friend, set up a Facebook event page to help coordinate search efforts after the friend told him Casey was still missing Tuesday afternoon.

Rollins and others searched for Casey on Tuesday evening, and continued the search Wednesday morning.

Although the report said Casey left in a vehicle, Rollins said there's no confirmation that that happened. So, the search continues.

Footprints and tire tracks won't do much good, as the area is a hot spot for off-road activities according to Rollins. Many visitors also leave trash, meaning empty water bottles or energy bars likely won't point to Casey.

"It would almost be better if it were remote and never traveled, but it's really high-traffic out here," Rollins said.

Rollins said he spoke to Casey's brother by phone, who told him that he and his parents were flying to Arizona on Wednesday.

Casey's family members couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday afternoon.

Rollins encourages as many people as possible to join in the search — especially if they have all-terrain vehicles or drones.



*Off-road vehicles line an area near Lake Pleasant Wednesday as groups search for Joseph Casey, who has been missing since June 21. (Photo: Perry Vandell)*

Hope, but fleeting

Joseph Osuch, who runs an off-road vehicle recovery company and is trained in search and rescue, said Casey may be too dehydrated to call for help.

"By now, if he is alive, he's so dehydrated, he's weak, he can't talk, he wouldn't be able to yell out," Osuch told The Arizona Republic. "he probably wouldn't have the strength to wave his arm."

But Osuch there was a sign Casey could still be alive thanks to something he couldn't see: Buzzards.

Osuch said he'll keep searching until someone tells him to stop. He recommends hikers buy a GPS locator that can ping friends, family





and emergency responders when they're outside a cell signal.

If they don't have one, Osuch urges anyone who's lost to stay with their vehicle because it's much easier to spot. He also recommends hikers bring a case of water for each person in the car.

"We don't know what was in his mind," Osuch said. "We just got to look everywhere."

## 25 of The Largest Cities in Arizona



VacationIdea.com  
June 26, 2018

Arizona is a state built for road trips. Long, fascinating drives blanketed by endless skies offer visitors a little slice of Arizona's pie with each stop they make. From Sedona, the land of red rocks, to Phoenix, Arizona's sophisticated capital, Arizona is a place filled with historical depth and warm Southwestern charm. Its 25 largest cities offer tourists a wealth of activities, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a World Wonder, world-renowned spas, several national parks, and the Sonoran Desert. Photo: Andy/Fotolia

### Peoria

Peoria is a charming Sonoran Desert city in the Salt River Valley situated northwest of Phoenix, Arizona. The first facility of its kind in the country to be shared by two Major League Baseball teams, Peoria Sports Complex is the proud home of the Seattle Mariners and the San Diego Padres for spring training and player development. Peoria has a variety of

outdoor activities to enjoy that include horseback riding along **Lake Pleasant**, going for a scenic hike up Sunrise Mountain, and taking a glider ride with Northwest Sky Sports over the picturesque mountains and desert. Visitors will appreciate the city's historical museums and fine art galleries. 25 of The Largest Cities in Arizona - Photo: EuToch/Fotolia

"25 of The Largest Cities in Arizona & Things to Do near Me Today" [Back to Top](#) or Best Restaurants near me, Images of Hotels, Discounts, Boutique Hotels, Inn & Bed and Breakfasts

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June 26, 2018 Staff Writers

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Anthem Country Club: Persimmon Clubhouse  
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623-742-6222  
Bounce houses, face painting, food, music, entertainment and of course, fireworks. Anthem Country Club members only. Reservations required.

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39345 N. Overlook Road, Peoria



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\$15/Adults; \$12/Children ages 3–12; \$45/Family 4–pack; \$20/One car fireworks only

Celebrate in the cool indoors with a stunt dog show, a Jurassic dinosaur exhibit, pony rides, a petting zoo, carnival rides, obstacle courses, a bull riding rodeo, electric animal rides and fireworks.

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**Wet ‘n’ Wild Fireworks**

8:45 p.m.

Wet ‘n’ Wild Water Park

**Safe Summer Treks**

Written by Mare Czinar Category: **Health & Fitness** Issue: June 25, 2018

Beat the heat and stay safe with these moonlight and early morning hikes.



Photography by Madison Kirkman

Like climbing Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen or eating Tide pods, hiking in 115-degree heat has become a symbol of fringe bad-assery. Sometimes you die, sometimes you don't. More than 200 hikers each year are rescued from Valley trails with heat exhaustion, dehydration, injuries or worse.

Most of these heat-related hiking mishaps involve poor choices (or plain stupidity). Nobody is immune. But you can still indulge your hiking habit and minimize your risk of becoming a statistic by hitting the trails during the early morning or evening, hydrating before, during and after a hike and by not going alone. These smart practices are the foundations of ranger-led group hikes offered around the Valley.

#### Dark Skies & Scorpions

Located far from the light-polluted heat island of Central Phoenix, **San Tan Mountain Regional Park** in Queen Creek offers darker nights, starry skies and abundant nocturnal critters. The park hosts moonlight walks and kiddy-pleasing, nighttime scorpion hunts along the Moonlight and Stargazer trails.  
[maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net)

#### Wilderness Moonlight Walks (pictured)

When drenched in moon glow, the craggy Superstition Mountains are a stunning sight. Lost Dutchman State Park in Apache Junction is perfectly situated for watching the moon creep over a volcanic wilderness to the sound of yelping coyotes and owls on the prowl. Step out on your own or join a guided full-moon trek.  
[azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman](http://azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman)

#### Splashy Shoreline Treks

**Lake Pleasant Regional Park** north of Peoria is all about water-centric recreation. Popular ways to cool off at the park include shoreline treks that combine hiking with cool dips and evening hikes to watch the moon's reflection glide over the lake.  
[maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net)

#### Snack on a Saguaro

Cactus fruits reach their peak of deliciousness in July. The early morning, interpretive Fruits of the Desert hikes led by Ranger Kevin Smith on July 6-7 starting at 7 a.m. in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek include demonstrations on traditional harvesting methods and tastings of prickly pear, saguaro and jojoba fruits fresh-picked from their native habitat.  
[maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net)

## MCSO: Man disappears near Lake Pleasant after car breaks down

**Kimberly Rapanut**, Arizona Republic  
Published 8:11 p.m. MT June 24, 2018

Phoenix police Detective Marianne Ramirez explains the process of reporting a person missing, and describes common misconceptions and important details to be aware of during the situation. Sean Logan/azcentral



(Photo: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office)

A man who sought help from another driver after his car broke down near Lake Pleasant on Thursday hasn't been seen since, said the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Sunday.

Joseph Casey, 34, was last seen at the north end of **Lake Pleasant** about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

After his Jeep Wrangler broke down, he was reportedly seen getting into a dark-colored vehicle "attempting to get a ride out of the desert to get help," officials said.

Casey is 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighs about 185 pounds. He has black hair and hazel eyes. He was last seen wearing a shirt with stars and stripes on it, grey basketball shorts and tennis shoes.

Anyone with information about Casey's whereabouts should call 602-876-8477.

## Peoria fire suppression programs get top rating

By Philip Haldiman  
Independent Newsmedia



June 20, 2018

The Peoria Fire-Medial Department has been recognized by the Insurance Services Office as a Class 1 jurisdiction.

“It is a rating that ISO gives to different communities around the country,” said Fire Chief Bobby Ruiz. “ISO classifies individual communities on their fire fighting capabilities.”

The ISO rates jurisdictions on a scale of 1 to 10, with Class1 the top rating for fire suppression programs.

Mr. Ruiz said Peoria is only the second jurisdiction in the state of Arizona to date to receive this distinction. The last inspection was about six years ago, when ISO rated the department as a Class 3 Jurisdiction.

The ISO scores jurisdictions in four categories when determining how to award the jurisdiction: Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms; Fire Department; Water Supply; and Community Risk Reductions.

For the last evaluation, the department received 9.37 points put of a possible 10 for Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms; 38.24 points out of a possible 40 for our Water Supply; but only 31.27 points out of a possible 50 for the Fire Department category.

The city has not received the ISO’s final 2018 report, but has received confirmation that the total points received by the fire department is 44.23 out of a possible 50 points.

Mr. Ruiz said the improvement was due in part to the increase in staffing with the addition of a full-time station at **Lake Pleasant**, two new full-time ambulances on-duty 24/7, and the implementation of the Low-

Acuity Unit stationed at Westbrook fire station, Fire Station 192.

Mr. Ruiz anticipated insurance rates, especially commercial occupancies, could see some reductions in the future, and advised residents, property owners and business owners to contact their providers.

“Just when I think I cannot be more proud of Peoria fire-medical, it keeps topping itself,” said Mayor Cathy Carlat.

### Agua Fria closure on Lake Pleasant

Westernbass.com  
6/17/2018



PHOENIX — It has been a successful bald eagle breeding season on **Lake Pleasant**.

Bald eagle nestlings are flying and about ready to head north for the summer and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department lifted its boating closure on the Agua Fria river into the lake today (Friday, June 15).

The seasonal closure to vehicle, watercraft and foot traffic was enacted Dec. 15 on the Lower Agua Fria arm that empties into Lake Pleasant. Each year the area is closed to public to protect breeding bald eagle pairs until their young are old enough to take their first flight, or fledge.

“Arizona Game and Fish Department’s raptor program has been successful in continuing to

grow bald eagle populations through the ongoing cooperation of our outdoor recreationists,” said Kenneth Jacobson, AZGFD Bald Eagle Management Program manager. “Bald eagles can be incredibly sensitive during the breeding season and even a few minutes of disturbance can lead to a nest failure. We thank our residents and visitors for respecting the closure and nesting sites, which helped to make it another successful breeding season.”

While most bald eagle nestlings have fledged from the nest, many other species have not and drone operators are still encouraged to avoid flying near occupied bird nests.

Recently, a peregrine falcon nest watcher reported to AZGFD that a pair of falcons became upset as a drone approached their nest. One of the birds felt so threatened that it attacked the aircraft, sending it crashing to the ground.

“While thankfully no one was hurt in this incident, it could have very well caused a potential nest failure,” Jacobson said. “Our main duty is to conserve and protect Arizona’s wildlife, but we can only do that with the public’s support and respect for wildlife. This will ensure these magnificent animals - and your drone - will live to fly another day.”

### Another Case That Makes You Ask: WTF Is Going on at Phoenix Prosecutors Office?

Bill Myers | June 15, 2018 | 7:00am  
Phoenix New Times

Phoenix prosecutors urged the release of a domestic violence defendant despite a history of similar charges and suspicions that he had





raped his ex-wife – another in a series of failures that has some advocates wondering what's going on in the city prosecutors office.

Forty-five-year-old Harry Propp was arrested in the early morning hours of April 19 after Phoenix police pulled his car over for a traffic stop, law enforcement records obtained by Phoenix New Times show. While searching his car for drugs, the cops discovered Propp was wanted on charges that he had attacked his ex-wife the previous November, the records show.

Propp had been charged with domestic violence at least twice before, in May 2011 and December 2014. He was also a suspect in at least six separate attacks on his ex-wife or her daughter, and police suspected him of having raped his ex-wife, the records show. Charges were dismissed in both of those cases.

Yet Prosecutor Jeff Hall asked Judge Thomas Scarduzio to release Propp on his own recognizance, and Propp walked out of jail within hours of his arrest. It all occurred the day after prosecutors learned that another former domestic violence defendant, Dwight Miles, had been charged with murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Chelsee Dennis.

Phoenix New Times reporting has revealed a pattern of releases in the Phoenix prosecutors' office that has left at least three young women – Dennis, 21-year-old Taylorlyn Nelson, and 15-year-old Reyna Estrada – dead over the last two years. In each case, the accused killers had passed through misdemeanor court on domestic violence charges before graduating to murder charges, which are handled in Maricopa County Superior Court.

Two of the defendants – Miles and Kodi Bowe, who is charged with Nelson's murder – had their assault charges unilaterally dismissed despite a “no drop” policy in the prosecutor's office. The third, Estrada's older brother, Ignacio, had been charged with attacking family members twice and was the subject of two bench warrants after he skipped his court dates.

Arizona law allows judges to consider “the history and characteristics of the defendant” as well as “the nature and seriousness of the danger to the victim, or any other person” when setting bond. This gives prosecutors a chance to mention uncharged crimes when arguing for bond or release conditions.

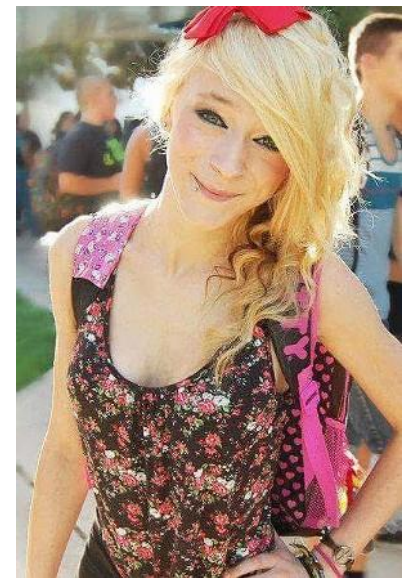
Hall and his colleagues have repeatedly passed on that privilege: Since Dennis' shooting on April 18, prosecutors have urged judges to release domestic violence defendants without bond at least four different times, New Times has reported. In one case, on May 25, Phoenix police had to scramble to protect a woman from her batterer, after he began stalking her again, a law enforcement source told New Times.

Neither Hall nor his boss, Assistant City Prosecutor Bob Smith, responded to emails seeking comment. None of the documents New Times has obtained from the hearings explain their reasoning. However, in an audio tape of his' court hearing, Miles was ordered to stay away from the teacher who intervened during an attack on Dennis but prosecutors said nothing about staying away from Dennis.

Phoenix Chief Prosecutor Vicki Hill, meanwhile, has turned to one of the country's leading experts on domestic violence for help.

Neil Websdale, a criminologist and director of Northern Arizona University's Family Violence Institute, developed a domestic violence risk assessment that has been endorsed by Arizona's Supreme Court. The assessment is designed to help cops and prosecutors understand the power and control dynamics behind abusive relationships to determine whether defendants are a threat to their loved ones – regardless of the crime they're actually charged with.

Websdale met with Hill's staff on Wednesday. It's unclear how serious a commitment the briefing represents. The invitation stressed that it wasn't “a formal presentation.” It offered free pizza to those who came, but attendance was not mandatory. Hill wasn't there; she's vacationing in Europe.



*Taylorlyn Nelson's dismembered body was found at the bottom of Lake Pleasant after domestic violence charges were dropped against her boyfriend. Photo courtesy of Nelson family*

Victim's advocates are beginning to question whether Hill and her team understand the depths of the crisis.

“I don't know what's going on,” said Allie Bones, CEO of the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic



Violence, a nonprofit advocacy group. “I wish I had a good answer for how things fell so far.”

Criminologists have long argued that domestic violence is often a precursor to more lethal violence. Arizona had that point driven home horrifyingly by Scottsdale spree killer Dwight Lamon Jones, who waited years to exact his vengeance for a bad divorce before killing six others and then himself.

Scottsdale officials are still struggling to explain why they didn’t pursue domestic violence charges against Jones when he was arrested for wife-beating in 2009, and what clues they may have missed before Jones began his rampage.

Since Hill took over the Phoenix office in 2016, Bones said, there appears to have been “a cultural shift” in how the office views domestic violence cases. The city is just coming to the end of a five-year plan it adopted to address its part in Arizona’s ongoing domestic violence epidemic – statewide, more than 660 people have died over the past five years. Bones and others are worried that the collapse in the prosecutor’s office imperils hard-won reforms.

“We’ve been saying for a long time that for the system to work, all the pieces have to work together,” she said.

A week after Dennis died, Hill met with her staff to discuss problems with domestic violence cases. But Hill didn’t take any further action until New Times began reporting on the widening crisis. She has since asked her staff to “get their creative juices flowing” and come up with reform ideas. A similar review was conducted last year shortly after Nelson’s body was found in an old sleeping bag at the bottom of **Lake Pleasant**.

Phoenix leaders, meanwhile, seem focused on protecting Hill from public scrutiny. City attorney Brad Holm –Hill’s nominal boss – has been urging staff who might be upset with the handling of domestic violence cases to come meet with him. Some see the invitation as an effort to ferret out whistle-blowers. Holm hasn’t responded to requests for comment.

City Manager Ed Zuercher has given Hill a vote of confidence, but Zuercher is himself up for review this year. So far, neither of the council members who have declared as mayoral candidates – Kate Gallego and Daniel Valenzuela, both of them erstwhile advocates of domestic violence reforms – have responded to requests for comment.

Some of Hill’s aides have urged the office to be more open about their problems, but city spokeswoman Julie Watters, a former television personality, has been adamant about controlling the message, the law enforcement source said. That messaging has been idiosyncratic – privately, she has accused New Times of “bullying” city officials for asking questions about the carnage. And some see her public statements – “we have successes and challenges with domestic violence cases” – as the moral equivalents of shrugging.

Bones said she finds it all puzzling – and depressing. In the years before Hill took over, prosecutors were proactive in addressing the crisis. Phoenix, for instance, was one of the first jurisdictions to embrace risk assessments such as Websdale’s. That seems like a long time ago now, Bones said.

“I feel like there just needs to be a wholesale review that is transparent and involves the whole community,” she said. “What happened?”

Propp was scheduled for trial on his latest domestic violence charges on Tuesday, records show. The case was dismissed.

## Crumbling remains are all that's left of 19th century military supply route

Jim McAllister,  
Special for the Arizona Republic  
Published 6:00 a.m. MT June 16,  
2018



(Photo: Barb McAllister)

The Stoneman Road was an important 19th-century supply route between the Union Army’s Fort Whipple in Prescott and Fort McDowell on what is today the Yavapai Reservation near Fountain Hills.

Fort McDowell, established in 1865, was continually short of supplies; before the Stoneman Road was established, the shortages were especially acute as the connection between the forts required a long route that swung south through Phoenix and north to Prescott.

With the establishment of the Stoneman Road, a day’s ride was eliminated from the trip.



Jim McAllister (Photo: Jim McAllister)

The new route was named after 48-year-old Col. George Stoneman, a Civil War veteran and career Army man via West Point.

He was assigned to Arizona in May 1870, and although he was relieved from his Arizona duties a year later, his establishment of the road between Fort McDowell and Fort Whipple was a major contribution from his brief command.

Stoneman was a trailblazer and sought a way to Prescott that would avoid the southern route. He found it by following an old Indian trail that covered part of the distance.

The trail was widened into a rocky road that led northwest from Fort McDowell through what is now McDowell Mountain Regional Park and passed north of Pinnacle Peak. It's believed that soldiers may have camped in the area of what is now near 136th Street and Rio Verde Drive.

Stoneman Road, a military road, also known as the "whiskey bottle trail," connected Fort McDowell on the Verde River to Fort Whipple in Prescott during the 1870s.

As the route progressed, it passed what would become Brown's Ranch

and the eastern border of what would become the Boulders Resort in Scottsdale.

From there, it was onward past the Black Mountain's northern slope to the nice respite of a bubbling spring near what is now Rancho Manana. At that point, the only stops left before arrival at Fort Whipple were Mayer and Prescott. On April 10, 1890, Fort McDowell was vacated by the U.S. military and became the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation.

Fort Whipple was abandoned in 1898 because the necessity of a route between Fort Whipple and Fort McDowell had been eliminated in 1886 with the conclusion of the Apache Wars.

It was reopened four years later, but was permanently closed as an Army post in 1913. As far as the Stoneman Road, with the lack of traffic on it after 1890 combined with the attrition of time and the Arizona weather, only minimal traces are left.

People interested in visiting fragments of the Stoneman Road can Google the satellite map view of Cave Creek and follow School House Road south past Cave Creek Road until they see the sign "Military Road."

They can then turn east and let their imagination take over as to how that area looked in the late 19th century.

It gets a bit rough east of 66th Street, as the sands of time have taken their toll on what was once a busy thoroughfare from a bygone era. However, it is still an interesting piece of local history.

Jim McAllister is a U.S. Air Force veteran. He has written many columns for The Scottsdale Republic and was a member of the original

Republic bloggers program that began in 1996. He lives with his wife, Barbara, in Scottsdale.

## Agua Fria Closure On Lake Pleasant Lifted

Ammoland Inc.

Posted on June 16, 2018 by

[Ammoland](#)

Read more:

<https://www.ammoland.com/2018/06/agua-fria-closure-lake-pleasant-bald-eagle-breeding/#ixzz5Mkl2DLFX>



Agua Fria Closure On Lake Pleasant

PHOENIX — ([Ammoland.com](#))- It has been a successful bald eagle breeding season on **Lake Pleasant**.

Bald eagle nestlings are flying and about ready to head north for the summer and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department lifted its boating closure on the Agua Fria river into the lake today (Friday, June 15).

The seasonal closure to vehicle, watercraft and foot traffic was enacted Dec. 15 on the Lower Agua Fria arm that empties into Lake Pleasant. Each year the area is closed to public to protect breeding bald eagle pairs until their young are old enough to take their first flight, or fledge.

"Arizona Game and Fish Department's raptor program has been successful in continuing to grow bald eagle populations through the ongoing cooperation of our





outdoor recreationists,” said Kenneth Jacobson, AZGFD Bald Eagle Management Program manager.

“Bald eagles can be incredibly sensitive during the breeding season and even a few minutes of disturbance can lead to a nest failure. We thank our residents and visitors for respecting the closure and nesting sites, which helped to make it another successful breeding season.”

While most bald eagle nestlings have fledged from the nest, many other species have not and drone operators are still encouraged to avoid flying near occupied bird nests.

Recently, a peregrine falcon nest watcher reported to AZGFD that a pair of falcons became upset as a drone approached their nest. One of the birds felt so threatened that it attacked the aircraft, sending it crashing to the ground.

“While thankfully no one was hurt in this incident, it could have very well caused a potential nest failure,” Jacobson said.

“Our main duty is to conserve and protect Arizona’s wildlife, but we can only do that with the public’s support and respect for wildlife. This will ensure these magnificent animals – and your drone – will live to fly another day.”

## Maricopa County Parks prohibits smoking, vaping as part of annual fire ban

June 13, 2018 [foothillsfocus](#) 603 Views [Fire Ban, Maricopa County, Maricopa Parks, Recreation](#)  
Tara Alatorre  
Staff

MARICOPA COUNTY – Due to extremely dry conditions and as part of its annual fire ban Maricopa County Parks has decided to prohibit smoking, which includes vaping in its parks; the smoking restrictions officially went into effect on June 8.

The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department implemented its annual fire ban on May 1 this year and decided to take additional steps in protecting its parks by increasing the fire restrictions to include a smoking/vaping ban.

“Since there are so many different types of vaping elements out there, it would be difficult to identify which ones are/are not acceptable, so we treat them like cigarettes,” stated an email from Dawna Taylor, a spokesperson for the parks.

Smoking or vaping will be allowed in enclosed vehicles or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites, according to a press release from the parks department.

“Individuals who smoke in the designated areas are also being asked to please make sure all materials are fully extinguished prior to leaving the area,” stated R.J. Cardin, Maricopa Parks and Recreation Department Director in a press release.

The fire ban implemented by Maricopa County Parks normally includes restricting the use of all campfires, fire pits and the use of charcoal grills, and does allow park visitors to use gas or propane grills in designated areas.

“We’ve added the smoking restriction to our fire ban in hopes of lessening the chance of human-caused wildfires, which could result

in serious damage to the parks and the safety of our guests,” said Cardin.

Any one in violation of the parks fire ban could be cited and/or fined.

A date for lifting the fire ban has not been established at this time but is typically determined by the amount of rain received during the monsoon season, according to the parks department.

These are the 11 Maricopa County Parks that will be affected by the fire ban:

- Lake Pleasant Regional Park
- White Tank Mountain Regional Park
- Adobe Dam Regional Park
- Buckeye Hills Regional Park
- Estrella Mountain Regional Park
- Hassayampa River Preserve
- San Tan Mountain Regional Park
- Utery Mountain Regional Park
- McDowell Mountain Regional Park
- Cave Creek Regional Park
- Spur Cross Conservation Area

If you have any questions regarding the fire ban call 920-501-9200 or visit [maricopacountyparks.net](http://maricopacountyparks.net).

## County bans smoking in parks



June 8, 2018 [fire, health, Sun City West](#)  
[YourValley.net](http://YourValley.net)





The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department initiated its annual fire ban on May 1. Now, the department is taking additional steps to protect the parks due to the extremely dry conditions. Effective Friday, June 8, smoking in Maricopa County parks will be prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites.

“We’ve added the smoking restriction to our fire ban in hopes of lessening the chance of human-caused wildfires, which could result in serious damage to the parks and the safety of our guests. Individuals who smoke in the designated areas are also being asked to please make sure all materials are fully extinguished prior to leaving the area,” stated R.J. Cardin Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Director.

The normal restrictions which include banning the use of all campfires, fire pits, and the use of charcoal in grills or any other manner are still in effect; however, it is acceptable to use gas/propane grills in designated areas. Violation of Park Rule R-113 may result in a citation. A date to lift the fire ban has not been established but may be determined by the amount of rain received during the monsoon season.

There are eleven Maricopa County parks that will be affected by the fire ban: Lake Pleasant Regional Park, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Adobe Dam Regional Park, Buckeye Hills Regional Park, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Hassayampa River Preserve, San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Usery Mountain Regional Park, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Cave Creek Regional Park, and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.

If you have any questions regarding the fire ban, call the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department at (928) 501-9200, or visit [www.maricopacountyparks.net](http://www.maricopacountyparks.net)

## Maricopa County implements smoking ban in county parks

Jun 8th, 2018 · by [Queen Creek Independent](#) · Comments: 0



San Tan Mountain Regional Park (Photo by Gabriel Sandler/ Cronkite News)

The **Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department** initiated its annual fire ban May 1, but the department is taking additional steps to protect the parks due to the extremely dry conditions.

Effective Friday, June 8, smoking in Maricopa County parks will be prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites, according to a press release.

“We’ve added the smoking restriction to our fire ban in hopes of lessening the chance of human-caused wildfires, which could result in serious damage to the parks and the safety of our guests,” R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director, said in a prepared statement.

“Individuals who smoke in the designated areas are also being asked to please make sure all materials are

fully extinguished prior to leaving the area.”

The normal restrictions, which include banning the use of all campfires, fire pits, and the use of charcoal in grills or any other manner, are still in effect, but it is acceptable to use gas/propane grills in designated areas.

Violation of Park Rule R-113 may result in a citation. A date to lift the fire ban has not been established but may be determined by the amount of rain received during the monsoon season, a release states.

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## Fire Restrictions Expand To Smoking In Maricopa County Parks

By [Claire Caulfield](#)

Published: Thursday, June 7, 2018 - 11:19am

Updated: Thursday, June 7, 2018 - 12:27pm

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Starting Friday, smoking in many areas of 11 Maricopa County parks will be prohibited.

Officials warn that a continued drought has made it dangerous to smoke near plants or grass, and the smallest ember could spark a fire. However, smoking within an enclosed vehicle or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites will be allowed.

This is an expansion of current fire restrictions. On May 1 the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department banned all campfires, fire pits, and the use of charcoal in grills at all Maricopa County parks.

The smoking ban affects Lake Pleasant Regional Park, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Adobe Dam Regional Park, Buckeye Hills Regional Park, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Hassayampa River Preserve, San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Utery Mountain Regional Park, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Cave Creek Regional Park and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.

An end date for the ban hasn't been announced, as Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department Director R.J. Cardin said, it will depend on the amount of rain received during monsoon season.



Maricopa County Bans Smoking in

Parks (With Exceptions)

June 7, 2018 PRESS RELEASE NoPhoNews.com

MARICOPA COUNTY — The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department initiated its annual fire ban on May 1. Now, the department is taking additional steps to protect the parks due to the extremely dry conditions. Effective Friday, June 8, smoking in Maricopa County parks will be prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or at developed recreation sites such as parking lots, picnic ramadas or campsites.

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ANTI-LITTER

Lake Pleasant trash program off to good start

By Cecilia Chan INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA June 6, 2018

Thumbnail of a newspaper article from the Daily News-Sun, dated Wednesday, June 6, 2018. The article is titled 'Lake Pleasant trash program off to good start' and includes a photo of a trash bin overflowing with orange bags. The article text is partially visible, mentioning the anti-litter program and the distribution of orange garbage bags.

A new program to combat trash left behind by visitors to Lake Pleasant Regional Park is working.

Memorial Day kicked off Maricopa County's anti-litter campaign, which hands out orange garbage bags to park-goers during busy holidays to pick up and throw away their own trash.

“Yes, the program did have a positive impact around the park,” said Dawna Taylor, spokeswoman



for the county Parks and Recreation Department. "While our team was out and about in the park over the Memorial Day weekend, park visitors were stopping them to ask for additional bags. Staff also reported that there was more trash in and around the dumpsters than in previous years."

Ms. Taylor said the park collected roughly 2,304 bags of trash from 32, six cubic- yard Dumpsters that long weekend, not counting the trash staff picked up. Approximately 23,754 people visited the park Memorial Day weekend — Friday through Monday, she added. She did not have numbers for trash collected in 2017.

The 23,362-acre park with the second largest lake in Arizona is a major recreational draw with offerings such as camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing. It attracts more than 750,000 visitors annually, according to the county.

Under the program, each vehicle entering the park during the three biggest holidays — Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day — are also given information about the impact of litter.

Trash not only mars the view but can do serious damage to wildlife such as deer, javelinas, foxes and multiple bird species that call Lake Pleasant home. Wildlife often mistake trash for food and can become sick, poisoned, or choke while eating it, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Others also are doing their part in cleaning the park.

Last year, a group of 15 volunteers for an Eagle Scout Project picked up an estimated 75 pounds of debris left at Lake Pleasant's Vista Point after the Fourth of July holiday, according

to information posted by team leader Tyler Swencki on the Project Aware website.

The Queen Creek youth noted finding plastic bags, sheets, plastic bottles and beer cans along the shoreline.

And during the summer months, the county looks for volunteers to help pick up litter along the roadway and inside the park.

"Litter is, and continues to be, a problem at Lake Pleasant Regional Park over the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day holiday weekends," Ms. Taylor said. "However, the orange bags served as a reminder to park visitors to pack out what they've packed in and leave no trace. This was a great start."

The parks department partners with two other county departments — transportation and waste resources/recycling — on the program.

## **Man claims Lake Pleasant water slide H2-Whoa! chipped his teeth**

Cameron Polom , ABC 15  
5:55 PM, Jun 4, 2018  
10:43 PM, Jun 4, 2018

PEORIA, AZ - At speeds of thirty-five miles an hour, it can launch you into the air in a grand display of acrobatics. But one man who recently went down H2-Whoa!, that world's tallest floating slide, says his experience was less than stellar. "I just like felt my teeth crumble in my mouth," said DaShane Guy.

Guy is facing a thousand dollar dental bill after needing work done following an injury he says he sustained while going down the slide

over the weekend.

On Saturday, Guy says his 30th birthday celebration quickly turned to panic when his teeth were smashed after a ride down the popular Lake Pleasant slide.

"I did what they told me, and when I came down I caught the very tip of my mouth on this slide," said Guy.

Guy says he was the first and only of his friends to give it a try.

The instructions for going down require riders to slide face-first, propped on their elbows.

"I'm 6'4, so I'm a little bit longer than a majority of people who are going down it, so I tried to brace myself like they said," said Guy.

More than the injury itself, he says it's how the employees and owner handled the situation that has him warning others.

"He just didn't care at all, he was just worried about the next person," said Guy.

"I'll quote him, he said "well that sucks bro, I don't know what to tell you" that was his explanation," said friend and witness Kelsey Moreland.

Each person is required to sign a waiver before using the slide.

In a statement, H2-Whoa says the accident occurred due to improper body position and claimed the rider actually chipped his teeth on his own knuckles. They also say Guy was intoxicated, something that's not allowed.

Guy denies drinking, but after a thousand dollars in dental work, he's warning others to slide at their own risk.

"It's very insulting if he's gonna design something and offer it to the





public, especially children, and everybody, then he should definitely be more sympathetic about injuries," said Guy.

H2-Whoa! management released the following statement to ABC15 in regards to the incident:

*The incident that occurred with the guest on Saturday, June 2nd at 3:45 pm was highly unfortunate. In any highly physical activity, there can be risk for injury. At H2-Whoa our highest priority is the safety of our guests.*

*After a comprehensive review of our video/ audio surveillance as well as thoroughly debriefing the staff witnesses on hand, it's been concluded the incident occurred due to improper body position. The individual bumped his front teeth on his knuckles due to this incorrect body position. Upon further review of his teeth, alcohol was detected on his breath by more than one staff member and management. This is strictly prohibited at H2-Whoa and specifically noted as such on our waiver.*

*While we at H2-Whoa provide detailed instruction both verbally, physically, as well as through multiple areas of signage, we're unable to correct an individuals position mid-slide. Hence why all participants must sign a detailed waiver indicating they're aware of any risk associated with this activity as well as acknowledge they are not intoxicated or affected by any substance that could alter their ability to perform.*

-H2-WHOA management

## Celebrate AZ Water: Goodyear Brine Wetland Project Yields Multiple Benefits

Source:  
<https://www.environmentguru.com/pages/elements/element.aspx?id=6>

[634956](#)  
June 5, 2018

The City of Goodyear, Arizona owns and operates the largest reverse osmosis (R/O) system dedicated to producing drinking water within Arizona. This system generates 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of R/O water. The downside to being able to produce this clean source of drinking water is that it also generates nearly 1.0 MGD of brine that is chemically impacting the City's reclamation facility. To solve the challenge of how to dispose of the inland brine, the City took a "One Water" approach to determine the optimal disposal method. In this way of thinking, all water has value, and as such, it should be managed in a sustainable and integrated way. After careful evaluation of the possible options, brine wetlands were elected as having the greatest potential return on investment for the parties involved, including the US Bureau of Reclamation, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maricopa County Parks Department, and the residents of the City of Goodyear.

THE PILOT In 2010, the City of Goodyear and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) signed a cooperative agreement on a pilot project to design, construct, and operate a brine wetland to test the effectiveness of this disposal method. The partners wanted to know if the wetland could remove contaminants (such as selenium, arsenic, fluoride, and nitrates) if this water were to ultimately be discharged into nearby waterways, such as the Gila River. The pilot wetland proved highly successful.

### Pilot Wetlands

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT In 2013, the City and the USBR entered into a new cooperative agreement to determine the feasibility of designing

a demonstration-sized wetland, to be built in the same location as the pilot wetland. The scope of work included a wetland sizing strategy, sighting analysis, and blending analysis. It also included a 30 percent design concept report for treating 1.0 million gallons per day of brine and blending this water to match the water quality of the Gila River where this water could be permitted for discharge.

FLOOD CONTROL Maricopa County Flood Control District (MCFCD) was excited by the prospect of having millions of gallons of water that could be perennially discharged into the Gila River. The MCFCD was just developing a new strategy called the El Rio Watercourse Plan for a 19-mile stretch of the Gila River that would restore the riparian area, mitigate flooding, and create a point of destination for recreation, hiking, biking, walking, and birding.

SITING ANALYSIS The Maricopa County Parks Department was excited to learn that the **Estrella Mountain Regional Park** was the optimal location for the wetland. A total of 45 acres would be needed to size the wetlands for build-out of the brine disposal. A blending pond at the Park's visitor center will receive all the water being discharged from the wetlands and could be conveyed north from the Center into the Gila River. Wetlands Project Rendering

CONCLUSIONS What started out as a brine disposal problem for the City has transformed into several collaborative solutions benefitting several stakeholders. The USBR can increase the amount of water within the Gila River, a major waterway in Arizona. The Maricopa County Parks Department will enhance their park through new additional recreational opportunities, such as bird watching, hiking, and a newly added attraction for people to see.





The Maricopa County Flood Control District can better manage flooding within the Gila River and create a point of destination for this stretch of the waterway. The City will not only benefit by having lower capital costs, as compared to current or traditional methods of brine disposal, but they will also have lower operation and maintenance disposal costs. The use of drying beds is common but leaves a great deal of residual material that has to be sent to the landfill.

Ultimately, the most cost-effective approach is the one that is both earth-friendly and economically sustainable. With the culmination of this project, the City will have a wonderful new park amenity that can be a recreation destination, and a river with many riparian restoration and recreational improvements.

Mark Holmes is a water resources manager with the City of Goodyear, one of 20 Water – Use It Wisely partners to offer water-saving advice and programs.

## Best family activities in Phoenix in June

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

As temperatures rise in the desert, kids and families count on finding things to do that are indoors with cool air-conditioning, involve water, or are in the early morning hours of after the sun goes down.

Both Westgate Entertainment Center in Glendale and Tempe Marketplace offer two months of splash-pad activities that give kids a chance to meet a different superhero or princess each week.

The ever-popular Mighty Mud Mania in Scottsdale is the second Saturday in June.

And rounding out the month is “Roar and Snore with a Dinosaur,” a Saturday, June 23 sleepover at Mesa’s Arizona Museum of Natural History for kids. (Parent chaperones are invited too.)

June 6: Kids Indoor Animal Games  
Kids looking for something cool to do this summer? How about playing some fun animal games inside the **Usery Mountain Regional Park Nature Center**? Not only will participants play some crazy and funny games, but they will also discover cool things about the area’s desert animals. This program is designed for kids ages 6-12. Details: 10:30-noon, Wednesday, June 6. Usery Mountain Regional Park. 3939 N. Usery Pass Road, Mesa. Vehicle entry is \$7. 480-984-0032, [maricopacountyparks.net/events](http://maricopacountyparks.net/events).

June 6-July 25: Westgate Wednesdays  
Celebrate summer with princesses, pirates, dinosaurs and more characters at Westgate’s splash pad amid prizes, music and dancing. The guest list for this Wednesday night party is different each week and includes: Rapunzel, Anna and Elsa, Belle, Cinderella, Superman and Captain America. Take home a downloadable photo with the celebrity guest. Details: 6-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays June 6- July 25, at Fountain Park at Westgate Entertainment District, 6751 N. Sunset Blvd., Glendale. Free. [westgateaz.com/summer](http://westgateaz.com/summer).

June 7-July 26: Summer Splash Thursdays  
Kids get to meet their favorite princesses and superheroes while playing in the splash pad and enjoy free food, dancing, prizes and entertainment. For the months of June and July, children can meet and pose for pictures with characters like

Batman and Moana and take home a free downloadable photo. Details: 6-7:30 p.m., Thursdays June 7-July 26, near the Barnes & Noble at Tempe Marketplace, 2000 E. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe. Free. 480-966-9338, [tempemarketplace.com](http://tempemarketplace.com).

June 7-July 26: Summer Band Concerts  
Glendale presents eight weeks of concerts at the E. Lowell Rogers Amphitheater in Murphy Park. The Glendale Summer Band is a community band of almost 100 musicians who play marches, polkas, movie medleys and other tunes. The summer tradition is more than 50 years old. Details: 8 p.m. Thursdays, June 7- July 26. .E. Lowell Rogers Amphitheatre in Murphy Park, 58th and Glendale avenues, Glendale. Free. [glendaleaz.com/events](http://glendaleaz.com/events).

June 9: Mighty Mud Mania  
Anyone who loves obstacle courses and getting muddy will have a blast at Mighty Mud Mania. The event includes a foot race for kids ages 7 to 12, complete with obstacles and mud pits, ropes to swing on, a slide and a tube dive. There’s an extreme course for ages 13 and older with more challenging obstacles. The Muddy Tot will be for kids 1 to 3, and the Mini Mud Course is for ages 4 to 6, so everyone can take part. Details: 7 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 9. Chaparral Park, 5401 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale. \$10 for 18 and older for the extreme course, free for ages 17 and younger. [scottsdaleaz.gov/mighty-mud-mania](http://scottsdaleaz.gov/mighty-mud-mania).

June 9: Superhero Prowl & Play  
Channel your inner superhero at the Phoenix Zoo for a fun night of character meet and greets, games, crafts, water slides and more. The event features activities at various locations in the zoo, including the Lakeside Tent, where the Superhero Training Academy will take place



with the Spidey Jump Wall, Lava Pit Escape and Hulk Smash.  
Details: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Parkway., Phoenix. \$10, \$8 for members, free for ages 2 and under. 602-286-3800, [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org).  
June 9-10: Phoenix Art Museum Free Weekend

Children can participate in activities, scavenger hunts, watch live performances, hear storytelling, get free tours, and more. (Photo: Phoenix Art Museum)  
Gain free admission to the Phoenix Art Museum the second weekend of every month. Children can participate in activities, scavenger hunts, watch live performances, hear storytelling, get free tours, and more. They also get to make art with a featured local Valley artist, like a muralist or dancer.  
Details: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 9; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, June 10. Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. Free. 602-257-1880 or [phxart.org/event](http://phxart.org/event).

June 14: Jr. Ranger Desert Discovery Day  
Bring your aspiring ranger out to the park to meet with the Park Ranger, learn about the Sonoran Desert and complete a few activities to earn their Jr. Ranger badge. RSVP required. Please contact [amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov) to sign up.  
Details: 7:30-8:30 a.m., Thursday, June 14. **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**, 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Dr., MMRP. Vehicle entry fee is \$7. 480-471-0173, [www.maricopacountyparks.net/events/](http://www.maricopacountyparks.net/events/).

June 14: ‘Grease’ at Desert Botanical Garden  
Desert Botanical Garden is showing the 1978 classic “Grease.” Before the movie begins, enjoy live entertainment and buy a movie snack from a variety of food

trucks. No chair higher than 6 inches off the ground is allowed.  
Details: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14. Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix. \$10-\$16. 480-941-1225, [dbg.org](http://dbg.org).

June 16: Scottsdale Fahrenheit Festival  
Cool off on the World’s Tallest Waterslide at the Scottsdale Fahrenheit Festival on Saturday, June 16. (Photo: The Republic)  
This event billed for “arms, legs and kegs” will feature an Arizona Arm Wrestling Competition, a jalapeno-eating contest, one of the hottest races on Earth, and a fast-pitch competition. Quench your thirst and ward off the heat with craft beers and cocktails and cool off on the World’s Tallest Waterslide. The first 500 kids get a free box of Hot Tamales.  
Details: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, June 16. WestWorld of Scottsdale 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. \$5-\$450. [scottsdalefahrenheitfestival.com](http://scottsdalefahrenheitfestival.com).

June 16: Spark! After Dark  
The light fades and the music cranks up at the Mesa street festival. This month’s evening festival includes performances by EPIK dance company, live graffiti art, BBQ eats, adult drinks and plenty of other fun for families and kids of all ages. This is the last Spark! After Dark, a festival held on the third Saturday of the month from October to June.  
Details: 8-11 p.m., Saturday, June 16. Mesa Arts Center, 1. E. Main St. Free. [mesaartscenter.com/sparkafterdark](http://mesaartscenter.com/sparkafterdark).

June 16: Multi-Generational Father’s Day Tinkershop  
Celebrate dads and granddads at a Father’s Day Tinkershop. The guys and the kids will have a great time creating things together with hands-on activities including a buzz bot.  
Details: 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 16. i.d.e.a Museum, 150 W. Pepper

Place, Mesa. \$15, \$12 for members. 480-644-2468, [ideamuseum.org](http://ideamuseum.org).  
June 17: Dads jump free at AZ Air Time

What dad wouldn’t jump at the chance to jump for free on Father’s Day? (Photo: David Kadlubowski/The Republic)  
Dads jump at no cost when they pay admission for their child at AZ Air Time trampoline park. Cost for children is \$9.99 for the first hour for ages 6 and under; \$5.99 extra hours; \$14.99 for first hour for ages 7 and up; \$8.99 extra hours.  
Details: 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, June 17. AZ Air Time, 13802 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 145, Scottsdale. 480-427-2000 or [azairtime.com](http://azairtime.com).

June 19-24: ‘School of Rock’  
The hit “School of Rock” comes to ASU Gammage in the story of a wannabe rock star who happens into the role of a substitute teacher. Dewey Finn takes some uptight students and transforms them into rockers. The musical features 14 new songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber.  
Details: Show times: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19-Saturday June 22; 2 p.m. Saturday, June 23 1 p.m. Sunday June 24 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 24. Tickets: \$20-\$175. [asugammage.com](http://asugammage.com).

June 20: These Rocks Rock  
Like rocks? Find out the names of different rocks and discover how they were made at Usery Park. Geologist AJ Lombard teaches cool facts about rocks found in Arizona. The program inside the Nature Center is designed for kids ages 7 and older.  
Details: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 20. Usery Mountain Regional Park. 3939 N. Usery Pass Road, Mesa. Vehicle entry is \$7. 480-984-0032, [maricopacountyparks.net/events/](http://maricopacountyparks.net/events/).



June 22: Movie night at the ballpark  
Bring a blanket and a little pocket money for some movie-time snacks. (Photo: Courtesy of Warner Bros.)

Watch the family friendly movie “LEGO Batman” on the outfield at Goodyear Ballpark. Bring blankets. Concessions will be available for purchase. Gates open 30 minutes before showtime. Details: 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, June 22. Goodyear Ballpark, 1933 S. Ballpark Way. Free. [goodyearbp.com](http://goodyearbp.com).

June 23: Roar and Snore with a Dinosaur

Both kids and their chaperone parents are invited to this sleepover at the Arizona Museum of Natural History on Friday, June 22. (Photo: The Republic)

This overnight event for kids ages 6-12 includes a visit to the paleontology lab, a flashlight tour, fossil preparation and more. Adults 21 and older may chaperone. Includes a late-night snack and light breakfast. Advanced registration is required. Details: 6 p.m. Friday, June 22 to 9 a.m. Saturday, June 23. Arizona Museum of Natural History, 53 N. Macdonald, Mesa. \$45, \$35 for members. 480-644-2230, [arizonamuseumofnaturalhistory.org](http://arizonamuseumofnaturalhistory.org).

June 29-July 29: ‘Bring it On the Musical’

Campbell has been named cheer captain, and senior year is going to be cheertastic! Until redistricting forces her to move. Our plucky gal finds her way into a new crew of hard-knock dancers and forms an alliance with their tough leader to set a course for the National Championships.

Details: Showtimes 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays Friday, June 29 through Sunday, July 29. \$15. Desert Stages Theatre, 4720 N. Scottsdale Road, inside Scottsdale Fashion

Square. [desertstages.org/bring-it-on-the-musical](http://desertstages.org/bring-it-on-the-musical).  
Ongoing

Through July 1: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park Concerts  
McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park has free Sunday night concerts. Rides for kids are open during the shows. (Photo: David Kadlubowski/The Republic)  
The railroad park presents a different concert every Sunday now through July 1. The bands are a mix from tribute bands to country, rhythm and blues, rock and retro tunes. Kids can ride the train and carousel for \$2. Food is available for purchase. Bonus: The July 1 concert will be followed by fireworks. Details: 7:30-9 p.m. Sundays, now-July 1. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. Free. 480-312-2312, [therailroadpark.com](http://therailroadpark.com).

Through July 27: Harkins Summer Movie Fun pass

[Harkins Summer Movie Fun](http://Harkins Summer Movie Fun) pass has returned. Buy \$7 tickets to see 10, different movies, starting May 28 through July 27. Among the movies shown: “The LEGO Ninjago Movie,” “The Boss Baby,” and “Ferdinand.”  
At the concessions stand, kids can order the kids combo for \$5.50 and receive a small popcorn, fruit snacks, and a small drink in a carrying tray. Details: [harkins.com/SMF](http://harkins.com/SMF).

Through Sept. 1: Desert Botanical Garden Flashlight Tours  
Discover the desert at night during a self-paced walk through Desert Botanical Garden. People may bring their own flashlights or buy one in the Garden Shop. Listen to the chirps, whirs and flutter of the creatures that still stir and witness the night-blooming plants. Details: 7-9:30 p.m. Saturdays, May 26-September 1. Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. \$24.95, \$12.95 for ages 3-

17, free for age 3 and younger. 480-941-1225, [dbg.org](http://dbg.org).

Through Sept. 3: Free entry at Phoenix attractions for military families  
Phoenix-area attractions and museums are offering military families free admission through Labor Day. Known as the Blue Star Museums program, attractions such as the Arizona Science Center, Heard Museum and i.d.e.a. Museum offer free general admission to active duty personnel, spouses and children. Active duty military, spouses and up to five family members.

Details: Now through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3. Find a museum offering the deal near [arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums](http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums).

RELATED: [Military families get in free through Labor Day at these Phoenix attractions](#)

Through March 2019: Bodies Revealed at OdySea in the Desert  
Visitors get a view at what lies beneath at Bodies Revealed at OdySea in the Desert. The temporary exhibit includes more than 200 whole or partial body specimens that display the intricacies of bones, nerves, organs and muscles. Visitors walk through nine self-guided exhibits.

Details: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday now through March 2019. \$79.95 adults, \$54.95 ages 2-12, [odyseainthedesert.com/stores/bodies-revealed](http://odyseainthedesert.com/stores/bodies-revealed).

## Tomkiewicz: A war for the future of our communities, rural lifestyle

Jun 1st, 2018 · by [Stan Tomkiewicz](#) · Comments: 9  
Queen Creek Independent



The folks living in the unincorporated San Tan Foothills Rural Community are in the unenviable position of sharing an extended border with the town of Queen Creek and therefore our two communities must interact on a variety of issues.



*Stan Tomkiewicz*

The idea of working together for the greater good died a bitter death long ago when QC abandoned a good-neighbor policy for one of self-promotion at all cost. Recent projects like the Box Canyon development and the annexation of the Ellsworth Curve demonstrate that QC is no longer interested in that “small-town feel,” nor does it support the rural lifestyle.

Yes, the mayor and town council carry out a charade, but when we in the rural areas now hear “let’s cooperate” from QC, it is only in the context of what is good for QC. Its goal is to grow into the new “South Gilbert” at the expense of everyone else in the immediate vicinity.

QC employs a sophisticated publicity machine dedicated to marketing the illusion that QC is the best-run, best-managed, most-forward-thinking, child-friendly, down-home-neighborly, business-friendly, mother-loving, politically responsive and god-fearing governmental entity since Athens, Greece, came up with the idea of democracy. Like so many other institutions that rely on propaganda, the truth is very different from the reality of its actions.

**Box Canyon**

Box Canyon was an integral part of a buffer zone between the town of QC and the north side of the **San Tan Mountain Regional Park**. It was considered a special use area deserving of “sensitive” development to maintain the rural area and to function as a transition zone to the park.

However, in 2012 the QC General Plan was amended to change the home density in the canyon. In 2017 the town council rezoned the area to create a suburban development complete with high-volume traffic, high-density homes and flooding issues.

Box Canyon also includes commercial development along Empire Road which will then justify building wider four-lane roads to handle the congestion. All this driving folks from established rural neighborhoods and replacing them with the city folk who tolerate what can only be called an “intended mess.”

**Ellsworth Curve**

The “Ellsworth Curve” was designed to ease the traffic flow between Hunt Highway and Ellsworth in unincorporated Pinal County.

As part of that agreement to address traffic congestion, the rural community supported rezoning the property on the northeast side of the curve to a very specific type of low-impact commercial zoning with strict stipulations that would protect the rural community. Everyone involved understood the deal – neighbors, property owners, Pinal County and yes QC.

To its credit, Pinal County stood its ground when approached by Amerco (U-Haul’s parent), which purchased the property and wanted to change the restrictions. The

county was protecting the rights of those in the rural areas to get what they were promised in the original deal.

So Amerco and QC worked out an arrangement of annexation into QC with the stipulations being thrown out. Their goal was to build an intensive commercial project on the curve.

QC chose to abandon their commitment to the rural foothills to the south. The curve is their front yard and is now to be drenched in bright lights, studded with electronic signs and jammed with commercial development that goes along with an Earnhardt car dealership and a U-haul storage/rental facility.

East-west commercial corridor Following that disaster, more properties west of the Ellsworth Curve were annexed into QC. The conversion of those properties from residential to commercial will further damage the existing rural areas along Empire.

The surrounding residents were promised by the QC of bygone days that this was a place where they could build homes in a rural setting and live that lifestyle. That promise is conveniently forgotten as QC fosters an east-west commercial corridor for businesses QC does not want in their downtown, but still want those tax revenues.

The heavy traffic from Box Canyon and all the commercial development will necessitate bigger, faster roads (no surprise) with traffic routed through the rural communities all along that way. The impact will be devastating to the rural communities. Let’s not forget that this will also become the view for those visiting **San Tan Mountain Regional Park**. So much for protecting the park.





Some say “All this is inevitable with development.” I would argue that it is simply one model and a bad one at that. The model works well for the development industry but is devastating to established rural neighborhoods. It shows a lack of imagination that results in the “look-alike towns” throughout the Valley.

This formula is predicated on having dependable puppets in the local government who value the property rights of those who propose development in any manner to make money but not for long-time residents who expect the property around them will be developed as it was presented to them when they moved in.

Government should be expected to value citizens and their lifestyles and not be completely lured to the hog trough by those in the development industry and businesses looking to expand. After all, the citizens elect these representatives to government to protect their lifestyles. Betrayals fuel the cynicism and confirm the present-day attitudes we have about government.

We all know development is going to continue, but the shame is that there are areas to the north of downtown QC where suburban residential developments like Box Canyon and commercial developments like the Ellsworth Curve would have fit in and been welcomed without betraying the commitment to the residents of the rural areas. All this is avoidable carnage as both communities could coexist if QC desired to live up to any of the press images the town puts forward, not to mention their past promises to the rural community.

For most of us in the rural community, Pinal County is our local government and we desperately need our board of supervisors and the

county departments to recognize QC for what it has become – a self-serving, politically treacherous adversary, the enemy. In that light we need Pinal County to be as hard-nosed toward QC as QC is towards its neighbors and the rural community. Does that sound like a border war? Well it is certainly a war for the future of our communities and our rural lifestyle.

QC loves sending out an email just about every other day explaining the newest award it has just received. I think it is time to award QC a well-deserved new accolade or two more fitting to the reality of the new QC- “The Worst Municipality to Live Next to Award” or the “Town Mostly Likely to Sell Out Its Residents Award” as both are appropriate.

Just a note to those of you who have not been sold out last week or this week, there is always next week. Your time will come because this is the nature of QC today. The villains we face are not the people who live in QC but the people who have hijacked the town council and only the people of QC can change that at the voting booth.

Stan Tomkiewicz  
San Tan Foothills Rural Community