


YELLOW SHEET REPORT

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·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

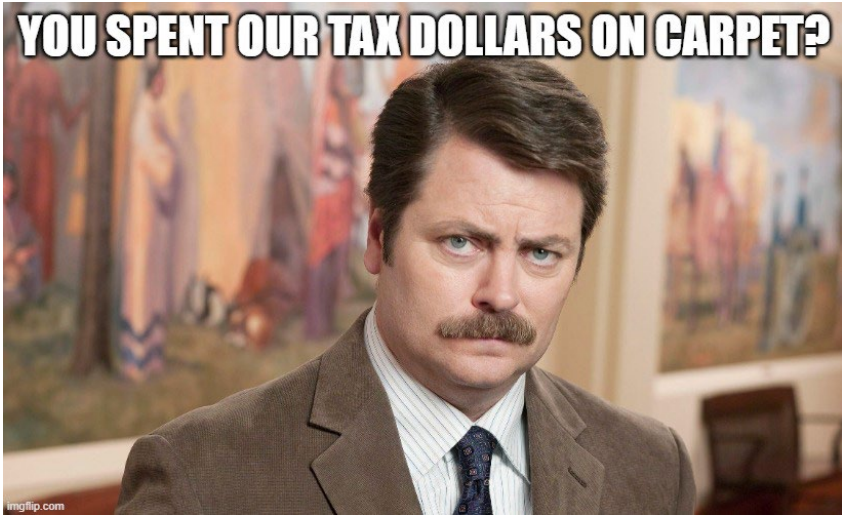
State, nation say goodbye to trailblazing O'Connor

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and as Majority Leader of the Arizona State Senate, died this morning in Phoenix. She was 93 years old. O'Connor served as a justice from 1981 to 2006. Before appointment to the high court, O'Connor worked as assistant attorney general of Arizona from 1965 to 1969. She was appointed to the Arizona State Senate by Gov. Jack Williams in 1969 and was re-elected to two terms, during which she was selected as Senate Majority Leader, the first woman to serve in the role in Arizona and elsewhere. In 1975, she was elected judge in Maricopa County Superior Court and later appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. O'Connor returned to Phoenix after her tenure on the high court and founded iCivics, a platform dedicated to civic education for students everywhere. She passed away in Phoenix due to complications related to advanced dementia and a respiratory illness. She is survived by her three sons, six grandchildren and her brother. The Arizona judiciary put out a joint statement "The passing of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is a huge loss for the legal profession, judicial branch, and the State of Arizona. Justice O'Connor's legacy as a jurist and Arizonan who worked tirelessly to improve our community and our justice system is truly an inspiration to all."

Kelly pitches bill to regulate firearms use

Kelly announced a new bill, called the Gas-Operated Semi-Automatic Firearms Exclusion (GOSAFE) Act [yesterday](#) – which intends to regulate the use of firearms. He described it as "a different way to think about regulating the most deadly weapons." "It focuses on the lethality of their internal mechanisms, not their cosmetic features," Kelly said in his announcement. The legislation would not apply to handguns, hunting rifles or shotguns. "What we're talking about are the types of weapons that are designed to kill as many people as possible, in as little time as possible, and any accessory that turns this type of a gun into an even more lethal weapon, like a bump stock," Kelly said. The bill would limit the number of rounds that large-capacity ammunition feeding devices are permitted to carry to 10 rounds or fewer and make bump stocks and Glock switches illegal. Describing the issue of mass shootings as, "uniquely American," Kelly said the U.S. has weak gun laws while having some of the highest gun violence rates. Kelly is collaborating with Sens. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, Angus King of Maine and Michael Bennet of Colorado to endorse this bill.

House gets facelift but carpet causes drama



The House spent nearly \$150,000 on renovations this year for the main chamber, according to public records obtained by our reporter. The largest expense of the year was an \$83,000 carpet replacement that some Freedom Caucus members didn’t approve of when the older teal carpet was replaced earlier in November. “I was proud to work on the Arizona Families Tax Rebate with the @AZFreedomCaucus because government can’t spend your money well as you can – even on

carpet,” Kolodin said in a post on X after the carpet was replaced. The carpet, purchased on Sept. 25, now features a black and white design. “Not exactly the ‘change’ the people have been wanting from the state House,” J. Parker wrote in another post after the carpet was changed. Another \$37,000 was spent on chamber dais quartz and speaker break area tops on Oct. 9 while \$12,000 was spent on chamber dais custom panels on Oct. 16. The House also spent \$9,000 to paint the chamber walls on Sept. 15 and press and side chamber chairs cost \$6,000 in March. House members also got new chairs during the 2023 session, but the payment was made for the chairs in 2022, which ended up being \$88,000.

Griffin on a pre-filing roll with water bills



Griffin pre-filed eight more bills yesterday, several of which related to water policy. HB2017 (assured water supply; commingling) loosens up the 100-year assured water supply requirement for developers by allowing the ADWR to consider any type of water or sources of water that are being commingled when considering a certificate or designation of an assured water supply. The bill’s filing comes after Petersen said earlier this month that he was interested in lowering the number of years required for the assured water supply. HB2018 (subsequent irrigation non-expansion area; removal) would change requirements related to the review

and removal of subsequent irrigation non-expansion areas. The bill would require the director of ADWR to periodically review all areas included within a subsequent irrigation non-expansion area to determine if those areas still meet the criteria for inclusion in an irrigation non-expansion area. The bill would also change requirements for local initiatives to add and remove non-expansion area designations to require 10% of registered voters who receive their drinking water from the subbasin in question sign onto the petition for addition or removal of the designation. HB2020 (long-term storage; stormwater; rainwater; rules) would allow a person that develops or plans to develop infrastructure in an active management area that results in increased natural, incidental or artificial recharge to the groundwater

basin to earn and hold long-term storage credits that don't exceed the level of increased recharge or projected increased recharge of a groundwater basin.

Turning Point USA members charged for altercation with ASU instructor

Two members of Turning Point USA were charged for an October altercation with an ASU English instructor. Kalen Christian D'Almeida was charged with misdemeanor counts of harassment, assault and disorderly conduct, while his camera man, Braden Ellis, was charged with harassment. In October, D'Almeida and Ellis recorded, questioned and eventually pushed ASU English Instructor David Boyles to the ground, injuring his face. Security footage released by ASU PD showed Boyles lunged toward the camera and was then shoved to the ground by D'Almeida. ASU President Michael Crow condemned the incident and called the two "cowards" and "bullies." A spokesperson for Turning Point USA said the two "did absolutely nothing wrong."

·WAKE UP CALL·

Study says US is ill-prepared to ensure housing for growing number of older people

AP

Michael Genaldi's road to homelessness began early this year when a car slammed into the rear of his motorcycle, crushed three of his ribs, and left him in a coma for over a month.

Arizona rattlesnakes could be affected by I-11 construction

Cronkite News

As more people move to the Grand Canyon State, infrastructure continues to expand outward. With more people, comes more cars and an interest in freeway expansion for projects like the Interstate 11 corridor.

Amkor to build \$2 billion Arizona semiconductor packaging plant

Reuters

Amkor Technology (AMKR.O) said Thursday it will spend \$2 billion to build a new advanced semiconductor packaging and test facility in Arizona that will package and test chips for Apple (AAPL.O) produced at a nearby Taiwanese chipmaker TSMC (2330.TW) facility.

Gov. Hobbs task force looks to improve Arizona election safety

The Daily Wildcat

A task force led by Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs spent the last weeks of October proposing legislation to identify issues and improve the safety and security of elections in Arizona.

Bank of America to pay \$12M in federal settlement over false mortgage data

Phoenix Business Journal

Bank of America Corp. (NYSE: BAC) was ordered to pay \$12 million in a settlement with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, over past practices involving mortgage applications.

Arizona gov's panel urges big overhaul of rural groundwater rules

Arizona Daily Star

An advisory council to Arizona's governor recommended a far-reaching measure Wednesday that could for the first time usher in regulation of rural groundwater pumping — if it can get through an expected legislative gauntlet.

Zoning changes hope to encourage affordability, sustainability in new subdivisions

Arizona Daily Sun

Changes to city zoning code designed to incentivize affordable housing and sustainable building may be on the way.

Successor to Prop 123 needed to preserve K-12 education funding

Arizona Capitol Times

Arizona voters in a 2016 special election passed Proposition 123, which increased investment in K-12 education by billions of dollars and ended a long, complicated and expensive lawsuit over previous state budgets' K-12 funding levels.

Kari Lake's goose is cooked (again) as a judge tells her to move on from fairy tales*The Arizona Republic*

A Maricopa County judge on Thursday rejected Kari Lake's demand that the county supply her with the names, addresses, phone numbers and signatures of 1.3 million early voters.

Climate resilience demands healthy forests*Arizona Capitol Times*

In Arizona, we used to brace for fire season, but those days are long gone as we now must be on high alert most of the year, and we are experiencing bigger and more intense fires as we try to adjust to the changing climate.

·PRESS RELEASES·**Governor Katie Hobbs Releases Statement Honoring the Life and Legacy of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor**

December 1, 2023

Phoenix, AZ— Following the news of the passing of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Governor Katie Hobbs released the following statement:

“Throughout her entire career, as an Arizona legislator, judge, and Supreme Court Justice, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor embodied the humility and civility that is at the core of what it means to be a public servant. Justice O'Connor first broke barriers when she was elected the Arizona Senate Majority Leader, becoming the first woman to ever serve in that role in the United States. Her trailblazing career continued when she became the first woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court, where she was the decisive vote in some of the most critical court cases in our nation's history. Justice O'Connor's impact continued far beyond the bench, with a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and civil discourse, which is more important than ever. Her legacy will forever be ingrained in the fibers of our state and nation's history. The hearts of every Arizonan are with her and her family today as we mourn the loss of a true trailblazer.”

League of Women Voters Remembers Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement on the passing of first female US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor:

“Sandra Day O'Connor was an exceptional leader and trailblazer who inspired many generations of female lawyers as the inaugural female voice to sit on the Supreme Court.

“A powerful role model to many, Sandra Day O'Connor broke the legal profession's male-dominated glass ceiling as a key figure in many of the nation's most historic Supreme Court cases.

“A defender of women's rights, Sandra Day O'Connor served as the first female majority leader in the Arizona state Senate, where she advocated for changing various state laws that discriminated against women. As a strong supporter of civics education, Justice O'Connor famously said, 'The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.' When she retired, Justice O'Connor engaged with the League of Women Voters on civic education programs and spoke at the League of Women Voters National Leaders Council in 2003.

December 1, 2023

“Justice O’Connor’s strength, boldness, and dedication to women’s rights is a shining example of the League’s belief in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. The League of Women Voters is forever grateful for Justice O’Connor’s leadership as we commemorate her lasting legacy beyond today.”

Mayor Gallego on the Passing of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor

PHOENIX—Mayor Kate Gallego today joined many across the country in mourning the passing of Arizonan and retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

“Justice O’Connor was a pioneer from day one – a young, self-sufficient daughter of ranchers who blazed a trail to serve in the highest court in the country. She shattered glass ceilings at every turn in her life, from pursuing a law degree at Stanford during a time when many schools did not accept women, to challenging workforce barriers, to being an active working mom. She was an inspiration to me and to so many other Arizonans,” **Gallego said.**

“I will remember Justice O’Connor for her fierce determination to make a difference through dialogue, her dedication to the law, and her strong advocacy and passion for civics education. One of my favorite experiences as Mayor is speaking with young Arizonans at her namesake ‘Camp O’Connor’ to encourage them to get involved in government and pursue leadership roles at school and in their communities. Her legacy will endure.”

O’Connor was born in El Paso, Texas, to a family of Arizona cattle ranchers. As a result of her rural upbringing, she became a resourceful, self-sufficient student of life – and a gifted, driven one at that. Her parents moved her closer to better schools so that she could pursue an education. She graduated from high school early and was accepted to Stanford – despite stacked odds – at the age of 16. O’Connor completed two degrees in just six years, earning her bachelor’s degree in 1950 and her law degree in 1952. Though she faced obstacles entering the legal workforce as a woman, she began her career volunteering in the County Attorney’s Office in San Mateo County, where she rose to become Deputy County Attorney.

She married John Jay O’Connor that same year and eventually had three sons Scott, Brian, and Jay. The family returned to Arizona in 1957. Back home, O’Connor opened a practice in Maryvale, served as Assistant Attorney General of Arizona, in the Arizona State Senate, as a Judge in the Maricopa County Superior Court and on the Arizona Court of Appeals. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated her to the United States Supreme Court, and with 99 Senators confirming her appointment, she became the first woman to serve on the highest bench in the country.

During her nearly 25-year Supreme Court tenure, O’Connor played a crucial role in many major decisions ranging from [equal protection to election law](#). O’Connor retired from the Supreme Court in 2006, but remained active as an advocate for judicial independence and education, starting a [web-based education project](#) aimed at engaging middle and high school students in civics. The year before her retirement, the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University [hosted a renaming ceremony](#) for its namesake. Former President Barack Obama awarded O’Connor the Nation’s highest civilian honor, the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#), in 2009.

Senate Republicans Express Condolences on the Passing of Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Arizona State Senate Majority Leader Sandra Day O'Connor

PHOENIX, ARIZONA— Senate Republicans share heartfelt condolences today on the passing of Sandra Day O'Connor. This American icon grew up in southeastern Arizona and became the first woman to serve as Republican Majority Leader for the Arizona State Senate back in 1972. She was later nominated by President Ronald Reagan to serve as the first woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Sandra Day O'Connor was an impactful conservative and a trailblazer who displayed the epitome of a hardworking public servant, a dedicated mother, and inspired many women to pursue leadership roles within the legislative and judicial branches of government," said Senate President Warren Petersen. "She broke barriers throughout her career, becoming the first woman to serve as Majority Leader for Republicans at the Arizona State Senate and setting the stage for others to follow in her footsteps. The example she set on civil discourse is to be admired. We're saddened by the loss of this icon, and our hearts go out to O'Connor's family, but we take comfort in knowing she'll have lasting positive impacts on our state and nation for generations to come."

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Statement on the passing of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on behalf of Hon. Joseph C. Welty, presiding judge of the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County:

Sandra Day O'Connor was a towering Arizona figure, even before she was appointed as the first female Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. From her formative days on the Lazy B Ranch in southeastern Arizona to her time at Stanford University to her relentless public service at the state and national levels, Justice O'Connor was a leader among her peers, a legacy that will live on through her institute dedicated to promoting the ideals of civil discourse and civics education.

In Arizona, she has the distinction of serving in each branch of government. After working in private practice for a number of years in Phoenix, she became an assistant attorney general at the Arizona Attorney General's Office. In 1969 she was appointed to a vacancy in the Arizona Senate; she won election to the seat in 1972 and was named as majority leader, the first woman to hold such a role in any state's upper legislative chamber. In 1974, Justice O'Connor left the legislature to pursue her career as a jurist, first at the Superior Court in Maricopa County (1975-1979) and then as a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals (1979-1981). Justice O'Connor was a founder of both the Arizona Women Lawyers Association and the National Association of Women Judges. She was nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981 where she served until retirement in 2006. When nominated by President Reagan, she was the first person appointed to the nation's court in 24 years who had state court experience and the first justice in 32 years with lawmaking experience.

Her impact is still felt today.

Beyond her “firsts,” Justice O’Connor was a dedicated public servant and professional who pursued the Rule of Law for all and the fairness and impartiality of the Judicial Branch. She was known for her pragmatism and dispassionate approach to difficult issues, the hallmark of her career as a jurist. Today, her legacy lives large for the more than 160 judicial officers and 3,000 employees of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County. All our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

*Hon. Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County*

As Tucson Faces Migrant Surge, Ciscomani Pushes for National Guard Deployment to Arizona

The Arizona representative’s request comes as daily migrant encounters in the Tucson Sector reach nearly 3,000 individuals.

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-06) is [urging](#) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to request the deployment of the Arizona National Guard to the state to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) efforts at the border. The push comes as the Tucson Border Sector faces the brunt of a surge in migrant traffic at the southern border. Full text of the letter is available [here](#).

“[The] Tucson Sector is leading in encounters and our agents and officers are overrun and undermanned,” **wrote Ciscomani in a [letter to the agency](#)**. “The situation is far past a breaking point and those on the frontlines of this crisis are in need of immediate support.”

On Wednesday, it was [reported](#) that encounters at the southern border had reached nearly 10,000 migrants in a 24-hour period. In the Tucson Sector alone, daily numbers reached almost 3,000 encounters. CBP has had to [close ports of entry](#) and pause other operations, such as [training activities](#) and [communication efforts](#), in order to reassign staff to combat the surge.

Ciscomani, the only naturalized citizen from Mexico in the House Republican Conference, has championed a number of border security efforts during his first year in office, introducing the following provisions:

- [H.R. 5990](#), the Border Enforcement, Security, and Trade (BEST) Facilitation Act of 2023, a bipartisan bill aimed at strengthening security screenings at ports of entry, and
- [H.R. 5585](#), the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, legislation to make failing to yield to law enforcement a federal crime in the 100-mile border region.
- [H.R. 3602](#), the Transnational Criminal Organization Illicit Spotter Prevention and Elimination Act, a bill that would increase punishments on individuals who aid cartel operations at the southern border.

NFIB State Director Chad Heinrich Recognized by Arizona Tax Research Association as an ‘Outstanding Member’

PHOENIX (Dec. 1, 2023) – National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) State Director Chad Heinrich was [presented](#) with the 2023 Outstanding Member Award by the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA). Heinrich represents the NFIB on the ATRA Board.

“We wouldn’t be successful without the help of our members,” ATRA President Kevin McCarthy said while presenting the award to Heinrich. “As the National Federation of Independent Business’ representative on the ATRA Board, Chad plays a vital role in ATRA’s legislative advocacy every year.”

“It’s an honor to be recognized by the ATRA,” Heinrich said. “As taxpayer advocates, ATRA is the premier watchdog of Arizona tax dollars. They provide invaluable research, expertise, and counsel, making it easier to advocate on behalf of Arizona small business owners at the statehouse. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve on their board and fight on behalf of Arizonans.”

About NFIB:

For 80 years, NFIB has been the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit www.NFIB.com.

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Ties Between Kazakhstan and Arizona to be Celebrated at December 2 Concert

Event Hosted by Kazakhstan Ambassador Marks 30 Years of Partnership Between His Country and Arizona

MESA, Arizona (November 30, 2023) — The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, is hosting a special concert on December 2 celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the country’s partnership with the Arizona National Guard.

This milestone occasion will be marked by a captivating concert featuring the renowned Kazakh Ethno-Folk Ensemble Turan. The concert by Turan promises an enchanting journey through the rich cultural heritage of Kazakhstan, showcasing the traditional music and dance that have captivated audiences around the world.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Sheraton Mesa Hotel, 860 N Riverview, Mesa, AZ 85201

This event provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the cultural bonds between Kazakhstan and Arizona, highlighting the diplomatic, cultural, and military cooperation that has flourished over the past three decades.

The partnership with the Arizona National Guard, part of the United States Department of Defense State Partnership Program, began 30 years ago, linking the Guard with the armed forces of Kazakhstan in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

The Arizona/Kazakhstan partnership is one of the original 13 partnerships of the DOD program. Previous Kazakh visits to Arizona have included military police operations, vehicle maintenance support, aviation operations and aircraft maintenance, and non-commission officer development programs.

Turan is an internationally acclaimed ensemble that has been instrumental in promoting Kazakh traditional music and dance on the global stage. Their performances are a celebration of the country's rich cultural tapestry and a testament to the enduring spirit of the Kazakh people.

For more information on the event or to arrange for media coverage, please contact Hugh Hallman at the information above.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte will travel to the US for an economic mission on semiconductors

(Washington, D.C.) — Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Flemish Prime Minister Jan Jambon will visit the United States for an economic mission from December 4-6, 2023. Prime Minister Rutte will be accompanied by Minister Micky Adriaansens of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. The visit will focus on the semiconductor industry and will take place in Phoenix, AZ, and San Francisco, CA. A delegation of Dutch companies and knowledge institutes that specialize in the semiconductor industry, led by Ingrid Thijssen of the Dutch employers' organization VNO-NCW, will join the visit.

The visit coincides with new, rising employment numbers in the US. The jobs of 1 million Americans are supported by trade and investments with the Netherlands. During a visit to the White House in 2018, Prime Minister Rutte vowed to increase the number of Americans whose jobs are supported by the US economic ties with the Netherlands. In 2023, that number grew to 1,022,743 jobs. Of that number, 78,000 jobs are in California and 15,000 jobs are in Arizona. These numbers illustrate the vibrant role the Dutch play in supporting a robust US economy.

Program

In the afternoon of Monday, December 4, Prime Minister Rutte will visit Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, AZ, which is the training grounds for Dutch F-35 pilots. Afterwards, he will be welcomed by Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego; he will meet with the Dutch companies that are part of the economic mission; and he will visit the Heard Museum. To conclude the first day, a reception will be held with Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs.

On Tuesday, December 5, Prime Minister Rutte will visit Waymo, a market leader in self-driving cars. After that, a roundtable conversation will take place with Dutch and American companies in the semiconductor industry at the Thunderbird School of Global Management. The Prime Minister will also meet with representatives of Arizona State University, and visit Dutch companies ASM and ASML, both of which are active in the Phoenix area.

The next morning, Wednesday, December 6, Prime Minister Rutte will be in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he will visit the DeFremery Recreation Center in Oakland, CA. He will continue his trip with visits to Stanford University, Microsoft, and Nvidia for conversations with companies that specialize in artificial intelligence. The visit will conclude with a pitch session of Dutch startups in the ScaleNL accelerator, as well as a business reception.

Train testing on Northwest Extension Phase II includes 85 tons of water

PHOENIX—Vehicle and system testing has begun along the [Northwest Extension Phase II](#) light rail project in preparation of the start-up of service in early 2024. Expect to see trains traveling along the new alignment as they complete a variety of tests on systems, signals and safety.

The next phase of testing will occur on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

What: 85 tons of water bottles will be loaded onto two trains to simulate passengers. At the completion of testing, the water will be donated to St. Mary's Food Bank.

When: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023
9-10 a.m.

Where: 25th Ave/Mountain View station
9833 N. 25th Ave, Phoenix, AZ

Who: Valley Metro Rail
Kiewit-McCarthy Joint Venture

RSVP: Contact Juliana Vasquez-Keating at jvasquezkeating@valleymetro.org by **5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4.**

Important safety tips:

- Avoid the tracks. Pedestrians should only cross at designated crosswalks.
- Look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns. Remember, light rail trains are quiet. Just because you don't hear a train, it doesn't mean one isn't coming.
- Do not access the stations. Stations are closed to the public during the testing phase.
- Drivers and pedestrians should obey all traffic signals and message boards.

Passenger service on this new extension is anticipated in early 2024. For more information, please visit <https://www.valleymetro.org/project/northwest-extension-phase-ii>.

Testing b-roll can be found here:

[NWEII: Train crosses I-17 rail bridge](#)

About Valley Metro: Located in the fastest-growing county in the U.S., Valley Metro connects people to their most important destinations each day. Riders travel across the metro-Phoenix area on eco-friendly public transit including bus, light rail, paratransit and streetcar. In May 2022, Valley Metro opened streetcar in Tempe, which features the transit system's first off-wire operations. Progress continues on five high-capacity transit extensions that are either in planning or under construction to create a 50-mile rail system by 2030. Valley Metro also offers alternative transportation programs including [paratransit services for seniors and people with disabilities](#), commuter vanpools, [online carpool matching](#), bus trip mapping, bicycle safety and telework assistance. Two [Boards of Directors](#) from 19 local cities and towns and the county set the policy direction for the agency with the intent of advancing the regional public transit system in Maricopa County. In addition to federal and local funds, Valley Metro receives critical capital and bus operations funds from Prop. 400, the 20-year, regional half-cent transportation sales tax that is set to expire

in 2025. Stay up-to-date by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) or by visiting valleymetro.org.

250 Maricopa County Community College Students to Receive Career Advancement Training

250 students will have new career pathways thanks to the collective efforts of Maricopa County and the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD). Participating students will receive no-cost training to further their careers in high-demand industries.

"This partnership exemplifies the dedication of Maricopa County to invest in the career development and success of its residents," stated Clint Hickman, District 4, Chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. "We believe that nurturing the growth of our workforce is not just an investment in our residents, but also in our local economy and the employers who call our community home."

This is the second collaboration this year between the County and MCCCD reinforcing their commitment to providing career advancement opportunities and workforce development for the residents of Maricopa County. In January, a \$6.4 million initiative was announced to help an additional 250 students train for jobs in high-demand industries through the Route to Relief program.

"We are proud to partner with Maricopa County to provide residents the opportunity to advance in their careers and earn higher wages," said MCCCD Chancellor Dr. Steven R. Gonzales. "This partnership demonstrates Maricopa Community Colleges leadership in workforce development training, producing highly skilled students equipped with the knowledge and credentials required to succeed in today's competitive job market."

Participants can earn credentials to become licensed practical nurses, work in early childhood education, enter or advance in the construction industry, help people through behavioral health careers, and jump into the world of information technology careers. To date, 97 students have already enrolled for the Fall 2023 cohort for programs that include:

- Advance Behavioral Sciences
- Amazon Web Services Cloud Specialist
- Automotive Service Banking and Finance
- Composites Technician
- Nursing
- Peer Support Specialist
- Semiconductor Quick Start
-

This joint effort and the shared commitment to shaping the future of workforce development and educational opportunities in the region is one of the initiatives that resulted in the county's selection by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to be one of eight participants in the 2023 cohort of the Counties for Career Success program.

Maricopa County has been working with a wide variety of public and private partners to stimulate career development growth across the region. The partnerships, representing more than \$9 million in investments, offer career training, apprenticeships, and opportunities for career seekers to learn new skills, obtain

industry-recognized certifications, and help employers in the county access a new pipeline of highly-skilled, local workers. To date, the county has partnered with:

- [Chicanos Por La Causa](#)
- [City of Goodyear](#)
- [City of Mesa](#)
- [City of Tempe](#)
- [Grand Canyon University](#)
- [Maricopa County Community College District](#)
- [Maricopa County Library District](#)
- [Mesa Public Schools](#)

For more on this and other programs offered by the Maricopa County Human Services Department, visit [Maricopa.gov/HSDConnect](https://maricopa.gov/HSDConnect) and for program information and to enroll with Maricopa County Community Colleges, visit [Maricopa.edu](https://maricopa.edu).

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“Not exactly the ‘change’ the people have been wanting from the state House,” J. Parker on new carpet being installed in the House.