

Arizona Coach Talker

Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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~ Our Fall Season Arrives ~

We made it through another summer and as usual we broke some records....it is after all a desert!! We are finally beginning to experience the cooler evenings that come with Fall in the Sonoran Desert. As we gear up for a new season in the hospitality industry, we can look forward to welcoming guests from all over the world and sharing this amazing and unique place we live Arizona.

~~ Fall brings the Arizona State Fair ~~

The Arizona State Fairgrounds, located on McDowell Road in Phoenix, Arizona, traces its origins to 1884 when the first Arizona Territorial Fair was held near the Salt River west of Central Avenue. After a flood in 1891 destroyed the original site, a citizens' group formed the Arizona Territorial Fair Association in 1905 and purchased the current 87-acre property for \$9,200. In 1909, which became the State Fair Commission after statehood in 1912.

The fairgrounds were officially established in 1905, with the first territorial fair held there that year, featuring horse racing and agricultural exhibits. The site was later expanded and developed with significant infrastructure projects during the Great Depression, including the construction of a grandstand and other buildings by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1936 and 1939.

The fairgrounds have hosted a wide range of events over the decades, from horse and auto racing to concerts and political events, including performances by Elvis Presley and Pope John Paul II at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The Arizona State Fair and Maricopa County Fair continue to be major annual events held at the site, which remains a central hub for cultural, agricultural, and entertainment activities in Phoenix.

See 'Items of Interest' in this newsletter for an in depth look at the buildings on the fairground's site.

~ Arizona State Fair runs through October 26, 2025 ~

Dear AGA Members,

Thank you for being a part of the Arizona Guide Association. I am honored to serve as your new President.

A special thanks to everyone who attended our recent Meet and Greet—what a wonderful party! Many of you shared that it was invigorating, and I couldn't agree more.

We're excited to share that we have created a new logo and will soon begin updating our website to reflect it.

Looking ahead, we are planning a holiday party this December and hope to see you there. In addition, we are working on more educational opportunities and programs to support and strengthen our community.

Thank you again for your support and involvement. I look forward to all we'll accomplish together.

**Warm regards,
Diane Schaeffler
President, AGA**

In case you missed it in the news.....

A court-ordered monitoring well tracking the health of the San Pedro River has run dry, according to new government data, and environmental groups say it's further evidence that over pumping at the U.S Army's Fort Huachuca is endangering the last intact river system in southern Arizona.

The Summers monitoring well was recorded as dry on June 30, according to data from the U.S. Geological Survey, meaning the water table had dropped below the depth of the well. Water in the well has been measured periodically since 1987, and this was the first time it came up dry. The well is located near the San Pedro River, approximately seven miles north of Fort Huachuca. It is one of nine monitoring wells established by court rulings in 2023 and 2024 that quantified the amount of water entitled to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

Congress created the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in 1988, conserving almost 57,000 acres in southern Arizona to protect and enhance the rare desert ecosystem. The law also required that federal water rights be reserved for the conservation area. The national conservation area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The single largest user of groundwater in the area is Fort Huachuca, which has taken 400,000 acre feet of water since 1940, according to the center. Sierra Vista, located near the military base, also uses the aquifer as a primary water source. Two other monitoring wells located near Fort Huachuca also showed declining groundwater levels falling below the court-ordered threshold. During the driest times of the year, the San Pedro River relies on seeps and springs from underground aquifers to maintain its baseflow. When the water levels in the aquifers fall, the river can dry up on the surface.

In 2022, the San Pedro River was named one of the ten most endangered rivers in the United States by American Rivers, an environmental advocacy group, which cited excessive groundwater pumping as a major threat to the river's survival.

The river is home to multiple endangered species protected by federal law, including the yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher, desert pupfish and Huachuca water umbel. The river also serves as a critical migration corridor for millions of songbirds every year.

Airport News.....

Terminal 3 North Concourse 2 Project construction kicked off in spring 2025 and includes the addition of six new passenger gates. Terminal 3 handles approximately 25% of the airport's passenger traffic. Overall, the airport served more than 52.3 million passengers in 2024. Adding six new gates will boost the total at Terminal 3 to 26 gates.

The new concourse will add approximately 173,000 square feet of space. It will further elevate the passenger experience at PHX, with new shops, restaurants and a mezzanine with a lounge. The design will provide travelers with efficient access, comfort and aesthetic appeal, including beautiful views of Camelback Mountain. The project is pursuing a minimum of LEED Silver certification. Through the US Green Building Council.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport has been nominated for seven USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards!

- Best Airport for Art
- Best Airport for Dining
- Best Airport for Shopping
- Best Large Airport
- Best Airport Sit-down Restaurant: Sir Veza's
- Best Airport Sit-down Restaurant: Blanco Tacos + Tequila
- Best Airport Bar: O.H.S.O. Brewery

Airport construction updates Drivers should also be aware that due to construction projects, there could be some roadway restrictions at the airport. Drivers should slow down for construction and watch for signs. Please allow for extra time when traveling.

Please call the Aviation Customers Construction Hotline 602-553-0005 if you have questions or need further information. https://pardonourdust.com/traffic_alerts.html

News from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT).....

Travel + Leisure recently showcased Petrified Forest National Park not only for its famous striking landscapes and colors - aka the Painted Desert - but also for its unique positioning as the only National Park that Route 66 travels through. With the upcoming centennial celebration of the Mother Road in 2026, it's a perfect time to position the park as a must-see destination for travelers planning an Arizona adventure. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/guide-to-petrified-forest-national-park-11804220>

Arizona's America250 Commission..... and AOT recently launched the [America250 AZ: Celebrate & Explore Pass](#), a free digital passport designed to help residents and visitors explore the state's rich heritage as part of the lead-up to America's 250th anniversary. The pass launched with 25 Arizona locations, with more to be added regularly in themed categories such as Treasures250, Indigenous Travel250 and Dark Skies250.

Users can check in at places like Canyon de Chelly, Lowell Observatory and Sharlot Hall Museum to earn prizes, while also discovering hidden gems and community favorites. The pass is easy to access on your phone and offers a fun, engaging way to celebrate Arizona's past, present and future. <https://www.visitarizona.com/experiences-passes/america-250>

Passport250: Nominate Your Favorite Arizona Spot! As we prepare to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial in Arizona next year, we're collaborating with the to highlight 250 remarkable places across Arizona, from iconic landmarks and hidden gems to must-try restaurants and cultural destinations.

We're hoping you can help us showcase the places that make Arizona unforgettable. To do this, we're asking you to help build up our recently launched [America250 AZ: Celebrate & Explore Pass](#). Use this form to nominate iconic landmarks, hidden gems, favorite eateries, historic places, or must-see events that reflect the spirit, landscape, and people of Arizona.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=A0pJtG3yXUe6QTmHHnY1Mc69Z-P8CJRCnsBHqIf7wT9URFpFWFA2TkMxNEVBSTVKM0wyMTIzMFcxNi4u&route=shorturl>

Attraction to go: Casa Grande Ruins Discover the legacy of the Hohokam people, who built thriving communities along the Gila River as early as 1 A.D. Known for creating one of North America's most advanced irrigation systems, their engineering skills supported life in the desert for over 1,400 years. Visit Casa Grande Ruins National Monument to see the impressive remains of this ancient civilization.

Arizona Revealed are videos produced by AOT highlighting Arizona: they include Flagstaff, Yuma, Phoenix, and Tucson. The latest and fifth installment in this video series highlights the authentic spirit of the West in Prescott.

This video beautifully captures Prescott's deep connection to its roots and community. It explores everything from the multi-generational K4 Ranch to the historic saloons of Whiskey Row and the renowned Prescott Frontier Days, including the world's oldest rodeo. This is a must-watch for anyone interested in Arizona's rich heritage and the enduring cowboy lifestyle.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBSIfCHYdrJCr3fNDIJBV79iZr7rPq5aO>

Attraction to go: The First McDonald's Drive-Through Did you know that Sierra Vista was the first city to have a McDonald's drive-through window? It was built in 1975 near Fort Huachuca, the military installation close to the city. At that time, military members were not permitted to get out of their cars while wearing fatigues due to protocol. So, to accommodate hungry soldiers, owner/operator David Rich built a small addition to his McDonald's restaurant that made it possible for his employees to serve customers through a window.

Scottsdale Tourism Updates....

The Scottsdale Arts District is a vibrant spot year-round and is home to dozens of galleries selling local art and works by internationally renowned artists. It's also home to two of the city's most popular museums. To get you started on your artistic explorations, we've curated this list of premier galleries and museums by genre.

Thursday evenings don't miss the weekly Scottsdale ArtWalk – the nation's longest-running event of its kind. During ArtWalk, the galleries in the historic Arts District stay open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and roll out the red carpet for their guests. Browse the galleries along Main Street and Marshall Way at your own pace, enjoying artist demonstrations, exhibit openings and live entertainment as you go. You'll also find some of Old Town's most popular restaurants and wine-tasting rooms in the Arts District – perfect for a bite to eat or glass of wine before an evening of gallery hopping.

Throughout the year, special Gold Palette ArtWalks take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and feature art and entertainment centered around the evening's theme. For more information on Scottsdale's art scene in Old Town and around the city, view or download *The Art Guide* at

<https://www.experiencescottsdale.com/maps-guides/>

Sedona News

Haunted Sedona Real Encounters with the Paranormal. As October settles over Sedona's crimson cliffs, the spirits come alive. From the vengeful presence at Relics Restaurant to the heartbroken bride who wanders Schnebly Hill Road, the red rocks harbor stories that chill the spine and quicken the pulse.

Spectral children play at Slide Rock. Mysterious lights dance over Bradshaw Ranch. A ghostly woman in white haunts Tlaquepaque's fountain. These aren't just campfire tales—they're encounters reported by locals, visitors, and even skeptics who found themselves believers after dark in the desert.

<https://visitsedona.com/blog/beyond-the-veil-sedonas-haunted-red-rocks/>

For all details on everything happening in Sedona this fall season, visit:

<https://visitsedona.com/directory/haunted-history-festivals-events/>

Celebrate Día de los Muertos at Tlaquepaque Arts & Shopping Village in Sedona, Saturday, November 1, from 11 AM - 5 PM. Experience the magic of Día de los Muertos at Tlaquepaque, where Sedona's red rocks meet vibrant Mexican tradition. This stunning celebration transforms the Spanish colonial village into a breathtaking display of marigolds, sugar skulls, and candlelight.

Stroll cobblestone paths filled with mariachi music, elaborate altars, and the scent of copal incense. Enjoy face painting, traditional pan de muerto and hot chocolate, authentic crafts, and exceptional galleries. Whether it's a romantic evening beneath twinkling lights or a family adventure, Tlaquepaque blends joy with reverence in this centuries-old celebration of life and love. Wander the village and take in stunning altars, large scale installations, and vibrant cultural displays. Enjoy live music, traditional dance performances, and roving entertainment throughout the day. Visit www.tlaq.com for full event listing.

Essential Fall Hikes

- ***West Fork Trail: The Crown Jewel:*** This easy 3-mile creek-side hike through a narrow canyon offers Sedona's most spectacular fall colors. Towering cottonwoods create a golden canopy that glows like stained glass against red canyon walls. Peak color: late October through early November. Arrive early for parking and magical morning light.
- ***Boynton Canyon: Desert Autumn Beauty:*** This 6-mile trail showcases the high desert's subtle fall palette—manzanita bushes with red berries, silvery leaves, and oak trees in russet and gold. The dramatic red rock amphitheater backdrop highlights autumn's understated desert colors.

News from the Grand Canyon.....

A rebuilt Grand Canyon Lodge could draw visitors year-round. Not everyone thinks it should.

- The Dragon Bravo Fire destroyed the Grand Canyon Lodge at the North Rim, forcing a closure that has hurt businesses that rely on tourism.
- As the first talks begin about rebuilding at North Rim, some people say it's a chance to open the area to year-round tourism with a lodge that can make it through cold winters.
- Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, along with other environmentalists, oppose opening the North Rim in winter, arguing that seasonal closures help preserve "the greatest backcountry" trip in Arizona.

Read the story here for the pros and cons:

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2025/10/05/dragon-bravo-fire-burned-grand-canyon-lodge-will-it-be-rebuilt/86426551007/>

Arizona Water

The Hayden Roads Aqueduct is a critical component of the Central Arizona Project CAP. It is a 190 mile section of the system that brings Colorado River water into central and southern Arizona. It was renamed from the Granite Reef Aqueduct to the Hayden-Rodes , named after Arizona Senator Carl Hayden and Congressman John Rhodes. This aqueduct system is a feat of engineering, featuring open canals, siphons, tunnels, and pumping plants that deliver. Water for agriculture, municipalities and tribal lands.

The Hayden Roads Aqueduct is 190 miles long and carries water from the Colorado River near Parker, AZ to the Salt River Valley and metropolitan Phoenix area. It includes nearly 174 miles of concrete lined open canal, seven major siphons, 3 tunnels and three pumping plants. The aqueducts primary purpose is to deliver Colorado River water to central Arizona, supplying water for nearly 1,000,000 acres of irrigated agricultural land, and to communities like Phoenix and Tucson. The maximum design flow is 3000 cubic feet per second. Renaming it was the result of the project's political history and the key role of Senators Hayden and Congressman Rhodes in securing federal approval for the project.

Items of Interest

Dozens of bronze castings hanging inconspicuously outside the Phoenix Convention Center offer visitors a clue to something near to the hearts of many Arizonans. The artworks are interpretations of the bola tie, the official neckwear of Arizona. Crafted by the late Phoenix artist Michael Maglich in 1995 are 59 bronze bola ties castings. Each has its own story. The pieces are embedded in the concrete columns of the colonnade shading the walkway along the west side of the Convention Center and on the wall near the Light Rail station near 3rd street.

Sometimes called a bolo tie, the accessory is worn around the neck, usually under the collar of a dress shirt much like a necktie. It is made of a piece of cord or braided leather that is secured with a clasp and silver tips. According to State Symbols USA, the bola tie was created in the 1940s by Silversmith, Victor Emanuel Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, who patented the slide design in 1959.

It's all about the clasp. The clasp is usually what gives each bola tie its originality. Typically, it is made with polished stones and silver. But Maglich's bronze clasps are unconventional. They include a telephone, a football, yucca leaves, a skull, a snake, a microphone, a corkscrew, and many, many others. Each tie measures 4 by 20 by 38 inches. The sculptures have individual titles like "The Medicine Bola," which has a clasp made of bronze medicine bottles arranged like a flower bouquet. He used measuring spoons to create the clasp of "The Baker's Bola." Each bola sculpture has a small metal plaque that gives the name in Braille. It's said that he was very thoughtful about how different people experience the arts and he wanted to extend that experience beyond just the visual arts to people who work their way through the world through touch.

The Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg, Arizona, houses a collection of **approximately 300 bola ties**, making it one of the most extensive displays of the neckwear in the world. The collection includes ties from various sources, such as the over 200 ties worn by Phoenix TV anchor Bill Close, who famously wore one on air every night for 28 years.

The museum also holds trophies from bola tie competitions and archives of the Arizona Bola Tie Society.....yes, there is one! The ties are stored in the curatorial offices in the basement, with staff wearing gloves to prevent damage from skin oils, and those on display are rotated periodically. The collection highlights the significance of the bola tie, which was officially designated Arizona's state neckwear in 1971.

Traditionally made by Native American silversmiths, the bola tie was named the official state neckwear of Arizona in 1973. It is also the state tie of New Mexico and Texas. Former Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater was known to sport the neckwear frequently. More recently, celebrities including Quavo, Post Malone, Johnny Depp and Nick Jonas have worn the bola tie on various red carpets.

Maglich's artwork is still being enjoyed by people in downtown Phoenix for years after his death in 2007. The collection was finished in 1996 and it is a part of the City of Phoenix's Office of Arts and Culture. He also created a series of watermain hatch covers in 1992 which can be found on the sidewalks of downtown streets. Among his other works in the Valley is Horseshoe Falls in downtown Scottsdale.

Arizona State Fairgrounds the fairgrounds site includes the following buildings:

- The **Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum**, is a Modernist style 14,870-seat multipurpose indoor arena built in 1965. **The model for the 'Cowgirl' by artist Paul Coze at one end of the indoor building, was your Editor.*
- **The Party Gras**, originally the Gem and Mineral Building, a historic 4,176 sq. ft. building built in 1918. It is the oldest building at the fairgrounds.
- **Grandstand** — a 1936-1937 Works Projects Administration (WPA) grandstand project with 5,000 covered seats, that replaced an older wooden structure that had burned down. The exterior of the grandstand has 23 bas-relief panels by David Carrick Swing and Florence Blakeslee, that were funded by the Federal Art Project. The Grandstand Arena is a historical outdoor area, used for open-air events such as horse shows, dirt track events, mud bog spectacles, races, rodeos, tractor pulls, and demolition derbies.
- **WPA Administration Building**, or the **Civic Building** — a historic 12,200 sq. ft. PWA Moderne style concrete building, built in 1938 by the WPA, serving as their headquarters for WPA projects in Arizona during the latter Great Depression years.
- **The Hacienda de Mexico** — a 12,546 sq. ft. covered mall (located between the Wesley Bolin Building and the Home Arts Center).
- **The Home Arts Center** — a 13,584 sq. ft. building was constructed in the late 1930's to 1940's.
- **The Agriculture Center** — two building totaling 61,000 sq. ft. designed to accommodate large shows and exhibits, including livestock.
- **Wesley Bolin Building** — an almost 20,000 sq. ft. exhibit space.
- **Arizona Plaza** — a 17,184 sq. ft. adobe style complex.
- **Exhibit Building** — a 50,000 sq. ft. building used for large shows and commercial exhibits.

Arizona Game and Fish.....

A recent study by biologists at the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) found that non-native, feral burros are having a negative impact on some keystone plant species in Arizona's Sonoran Desert landscape. These changes in habitat are already harming some species of wildlife and may pose a challenge to more species in the future.

"For a number of years in areas with burros, our biologists anecdotally observed trees that were over-browsed and that had ripped bark and branches," said Clay Crowder, AZGFD assistant director, Wildlife Management Division. "We initiated this study to have concrete data and a better understanding of the impact that the burros have on wildlife and their habitats."

For the study, biologists chose the areas in and around Lake Havasu and Lake Pleasant. These locations were ideal because they included both areas with herds of burros as well as nearby areas with similar

vegetation types, but without burros present. Biologists established transects at multiple sampling sites where they measured vegetation metrics, such as size, density, foliage density and, for some species, age structure. They also recorded evidence of wildlife such as tracks and dung piles. They looked for signs of deer and bighorn sheep and collected data on small mammals, reptiles and birds.

“Our most significant findings were related to the vegetation,” said Esther Rubin, AZGFD Research Branch chief. “In one of the primary vegetation types, the ground cover was 30% lower in burro areas. Plant and foliage density was also lower and some of the plant species were smaller – but some of the most concerning findings had to do with palo verde trees, ironwood trees and saguaro cacti.” Both palo verde and ironwood trees are common to the Sonoran Desert and can live for upwards of 100 years and beyond. In their natural state, these trees grow very full and bush-like, with overhanging branches often touching the ground and creating a refuge of shade and protection for wildlife and for other plants. For this reason, palo verde and ironwood trees have been referred to as “nurse plants” because they provide protection to young plants of multiple species. In areas with burro presence, that protective habitat is being destroyed. “When you see these trees on the landscape, everything from burro height down is completely eaten,” Rubin said. “And when you get closer, you can see teeth marks where the burros chewed and ripped the bark away, which can eventually kill the tree.”

When these trees are damaged and no longer provide shady refuge, many plant and wildlife species are negatively affected, but there is one Sonoran Desert native that is being hit particularly hard in active burro areas: the iconic saguaro cactus. Taking about a decade to grow just a few inches, saguaros depend on trees like the palo verde to be their “nurse plants,” providing the protection they need to make it to adulthood. In areas with burro presence, the study found a 63% lower ratio of young to adult saguaros. “Saguaros are considered a keystone species, providing cover or forage for over 100 species of animals,” Rubin said. “Reduced recruitment of saguaros could have negative effects on the habitat and wildlife for decades, possibly centuries.”

Unlike native ungulates living in the Sonoran Desert – think bighorn sheep and mule deer – burros possess several physiological traits that cause them to use and impact vegetation differently. “Burros and other equids have a less efficient digestive system than bighorn sheep and deer. So burros need to consume more plant material than an animal of equal size,” Rubin said. “Burros also have upper incisors that allow them to grab and tear vegetation in a way that native wildlife cannot.”

Despite the negative effect burros have on wildlife habitat, AZGFD does not manage these animals. Burros are protected under the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and, in some cases, the U.S. Forest Service. The BLM established seven herd management areas (HMAs) in Arizona and each HMA was evaluated to determine how many burros that landscape could support while maintaining what the Federal government refers to as a “thriving natural ecological balance”. This number is known as the appropriate management level (AML).

“If you add all of the HMAs in Arizona together, the BLM has determined that the collective appropriate number is about 1,400 burros,” Rubin said. “The BLM estimate for the state is about 10,000 burros, and this doesn’t include the many burros that have spread to non-HMA areas. The actual number is likely much higher.” Burro numbers are far above recommended levels — and growing, at a rate of about 20% a year. Burros have also spread beyond designated HMAs, leaving many uncounted and unmanaged. Add to that their ability to thrive in the desert even when vegetation is poor, and it’s easy to see how Arizona ended up with a burro overpopulation.

The BLM is responsible for monitoring burro numbers and, when necessary, removing burros from the landscape to holding areas. They also have an adoption program for burros and there is research being done on fertility control. However, none of these are options that will quickly return burro numbers to their appropriate management levels.

“The long-term effect of burros on habitat remains a concern,” Crowder said. “The BLM has the legal requirement to manage burros at numbers that maintain a thriving natural ecological balance, and our findings indicate that this requirement is not being met.” The interplay between management difficulties and public fondness for the burro is the topic of an upcoming documentary by Zala Films titled *Burrocracy*. “When it comes to the burro issue, no one is looking through the same lens,” said *Burrocracy* filmmaker Asali Echols. “Our hope is to take a step back from the disagreement and arguing, look at the topic from a broader sense, hear the different perspectives, and maybe there could be some new ideas about how to move forward.” For now, Rubin hopes that this study will give AZGFD’s federal partners a better understanding of the effects that feral burros are having on the Sonoran Desert’s habitats and wildlife. (continued)

“We manage the wildlife, and we need healthy habitat to support them,” Rubin said. “There are about 300 species that rely on the Sonoran Desert as their home, and I feel like the foundation of this home is crumbling — burros are nibbling it away.”



How did some of the streets in the South Valley get their names?

- ❖ ***Apache Boulevard*** previously known as E. 13th St., was renamed Apache Boulevard in 1950 and designated a key link in several major routes through the state, including US Highways 60, 70, 80 and 89 and State Route 93.
- ❖ ***Broadway Road*** is named for Noah M Broadway, a Maricopa County Sheriff from 1885-86. He had a farm between 7th and 23rd Avenues, on the South side of what is now Broadway Road. In 2014, Phoenix gave Broadway Road the ceremonial name of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, though it officially remained Broadway Road.
- ❖ ***Baseline Road*** was known as the road of Japanese Flower Gardens, with colorful flower farms stretching from 32nd St. to 48th St. However, the story of Baseline Road goes back far longer than the gardens. Baseline Road is, in fact, the baseline of the Gila and Salt River Meridian Survey, which began in 1867 and was completed in July 1868. The survey connected the territory of Arizona to the National Grid System and enabled early settlers to establish land claims under the Homestead Act, essentially resulting in the first population boom in Arizona after the Civil War.
- ❖ ***Warner Road*** began as a short ‘road of convenience’ when the Kyrene School District was founded in 1888. Area leaders decided to extend a road from the first school to the second school, naming it after the prominent Warner family. Samuel Warner and Indiana native served on the Kyrene governing board. From 1916 to 1919, Lydia shock Warner homestead at 160 acres of land on the southeastern corner of what is now the intersection of Warner Rd. and Priest Drive. Their daughter, Edith Warner Owens, attended the original Kyrene School when she was a child..
- ❖ ***Riggs Road*** is named after the Riggs family who farmed large sections of the area, and was originally called Superstition Road. The family, known for their cotton farming, sold off most of their land as Chandler grew, and the road was named after the family at the request of the Arizona Farm Bureau.
- ❖ ***Chandler Boulevard*** was named after the city of Chandler. The city is named after Doctor Alexander John Chandler, known as AJ Chandler, who founded the town site in 1912. He was the Arizona Territory's first state veterinarian.
- ❖ ***Ocotillo Road*** was once a dirt road, built during Chandler's agricultural era in the early 20th century. The road was first used to travel along cotton farms in South Chandler. In 1916, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company became interested in the Valley as a location to grow cotton for the radials in their tires. Goodyear leased 8000 acres from Doctor AJ Chandler and operated a large cotton ranch roughly bounded by today's Queen Creek, Price, and McQueen Roads and Hunt Highway. Goodyear built a company town for their workers, as well as a series of satellite camps. Some of the original town buildings still stand along today's Basha Road, south of Ocotillo Road. The price of cotton plummeted in 1920, forcing Goodyear to consolidate their land holdings to the West Valley, and they took the name Goodyear with them. The former Chandler cotton area needed a new name, and after learning from the US Postal Service that no town in Arizona was named after the desert ocotillo plant, the residents in the area agreed to call the area Ocotillo. This resulted in the designation of Ocotillo Road.

Education its essential and what we do!

AGA's Winter 2025 Adventure is currently being planned for early December by your Education Committee, April Taylor and Howard Rosen. Look for details soon!!

If you are interested in becoming AGA Certified for Arizona as a tour guide, and you have been a member for 1 year prior, you qualify to study for the test. The cost of the test information is \$10 and may be obtained from: Princely Nesadurai at pkntamil@yahoo.com. Your check should be payable to the Arizona Guides Association and marked for "Certification Test".

Benefits of AGA Certification:

- Gain confidence about Arizona history, geology, flora and fauna
- Become recognized by your peers as an exceptional source of information
- Heighten your visibility for career and job opportunities within the tourism industry

If there is a speaker or topic you would like AGA to bring to the membership please let the education committee know. Email: agaedprogram@gmail.com

Get Outside !!

Fall Hikes: Gaddes Canyon Trail ~ It's a windy but colorful journey up to the Mingus Mountain Lookout fire tower and Depression-era cabin in Prescott National Forest.

fs.usda.gov/r03/prescott

More beautiful Fall hikes in Sedona:

<https://visitsedona.com/sedona-secret-7/hiking/>

Websites to visit

Phoenix 'Connected Oasis'

https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/pddsite/documents/planning-zoning-pz/pdd_pz_pdf_00340.pdf

Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture - Public Art Project Plan

<https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/artssite/documents/council-approved%20fy%2014-19%20public%20art%20project%20plan.pdf>

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