



Peoria crash leads to pursuit, ends in fire at White Tank Mountains

Photo by: EW Scripps

By: abc15.com staff

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PEORIA, AZ — Peoria police say a vehicle pursuit started after someone allegedly drove away from the scene of a crash and ended with the driver's vehicle on fire in the **White Tank Mountain Regional Park**.

Police responded to reports of a crash near 75th and Grand avenues Sunday night where one of the drivers left the scene.

Police found the vehicle and tried to stop it, but the driver allegedly did not pull over.



The vehicle continued westbound. Police say the driver crashed into multiple other vehicles, but it is currently unknown exactly how many.

Police say they followed the vehicle into White Tank Regional Park,

where they were able to stop the vehicle with the assistance of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

After stopping the vehicle, police say it caught fire.

The fire has since been put out.

No injuries have been reported to the driver or any officers involved.

Police are working to find the exact number of vehicles the driver crashed into and the severity of those crashes.

Car crash in Peoria jump-starts police chase into mountain park

Jul 25, 2022, 8:15 AM



(Facebook Photo/Peoria Police Department)

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BY KTAR.COM

PHOENIX – Peoria police arrested a driver who allegedly caused multiple collisions and fled into a regional park, where the suspect's vehicle caught fire.

The Peoria Police Department said officers were called Sunday about a driver who allegedly left the scene of a collision near 75th and Grand avenues.

Police said the suspect rammed the other vehicle then drove off.

The fleeing driver hit several other vehicles along the way, police said.

Officers tried to pull over the car, but the driver didn't comply, instead staying westbound before eventually heading into **White Tank Mountain Park**.



Troopers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety helped stop the car.

The suspect was out of the car when it caught fire, police said.

No other details were made available.

A breakdown of county's \$4.5B budget

By Allison Brown, Foothills Focus Staff Writer

Jul 21, 2022

The Foothills Focus



Maricopa County Manager Joy Rich recently discussed the 2023 fiscal year budget of about \$4.5 billion, which may result in a property tax reduction.

The talk came during the July 8 Friends of Daisy Mountain Trails meeting.



“I think you probably all know this, but Maricopa County is the fastest-growing county in the country, and continues to have that fastest-growing county award every year,” said Rich, who has been manager since 2016.

“We are a very large county with almost 4.5 million people. We’re the fourth largest county in the country, so this is really a large organization, and we have a budget that obviously reflects that.”

This fiscal year’s budget is a 30% increase from the previous year. Expenditures are broken up into six categories, with public safety accounting for 47% of the \$4.5 billion budget. The other categories, in order of percentage of the total budget, include health, welfare and sanitation; general government, highways and streets; culture and recreation; and education.

Rich said one of the budget highlights is it sets the tax rate at less than the truth-in-taxation rate. That means, when considering the property tax rate and valuations, a reduction in property taxes is expected this fiscal year. Another big highlight of the budget is structural balance.

“We don’t have more going out than we have coming in,” Rich explained. “We have two months of reserves in our general fund, in detention funds. That’s generally seen as a best practice.”

The budget also includes funding for all retirement rate increases.

Further, Rich said it sets aside about \$500 million to address unfunded pension liabilities in the public safety pension fund. She equated this to paying down a mortgage, and, in this scenario, the county is essentially paying 75% of what it owes in liabilities. She said paying this off

now will ultimately save the county tens of millions of dollars every year going forward.

Maricopa County has also been allocated \$560 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds for the 2023 fiscal year. This is the third year ARPA funds have been given out, and Rich said it takes a large group and an extensive process to decide how to break the money up.

“With these dollars comes a lot of responsibility,” she said. “We need to make sure that these dollars are used appropriately, but also create a legacy of improvement in our community. You’ll see some of that here.”

The funds will be broken up into several different spending categories, with the largest two (accounting for nearly half the funds) being the COVID-19 public health response and housing. Other categories include workforce support, rent and mortgage assistance, behavioral health and addiction recovery, and food banks and adverse childhood services.

According to Rich, about \$450 million has been budgeted for capital improvements. That money is divided up into public safety (35%); highways and streets (29%); general government (18%); health, welfare and sanitation (13%); and culture and recreation (5%).

The county has taken on a number of facilities projects and has set aside \$57.1 million for those. Rich said some of the major projects include improving and renovating the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office substations and building a public health and human services building. Another big expense for facilities projects is technology improvements, for everyone from the courts to MCSO to even the election facilities.

“I’m sure you realize there is a lot of focus on election technology and election security, so we’re renovating that facility for them, but that is a very complicated exercise and a very expensive exercise,” Rich said.

The last part of the budget she discussed was the \$1.8 million set aside for park improvements.

“Finally, our beloved park system is getting some capital love as well,” Rich said. “We’re doing some fencing projects, a day use improvement project at **Hassayampa Conservation Area** — which is just lovely if you’ve never been out there — as well as at **Usery Mountain and White Tank Mountain regional parks.**”

The budget was in effect starting July 1, 2022, and it runs through June 30, 2023. Rich acknowledged \$4.5 billion is an extremely large budget, but it is necessary and was well thought out with taxpayers’ interests in mind.

“I think the board really sharpened their pencils this year. They understand how much pressure the taxpayer is under and was able to drive down that tax rate to such a large degree, in spite of increasing valuations, that we are hopeful that most county taxpayers will see a break on their tax bill.”

Dust storm and thunderstorm warnings issued throughout central and southeastern Arizona

Angela Cordoba Perez
Arizona Republic
July 17, 2022



The National Weather Service in Phoenix issued a dust storm warning just before 8 p.m. Sunday in Maricopa and Pinal counties after a weekend of thunderstorms, hail, rain, and flooding.

At 7:52 p.m., a wall of dust extending from Blackwater to Casa Grande to Arizola to Chui-Chu, moved west at 25 mph, according to NWS.

Hail and strong winds were seen across Arizona as storms progressed through the state on Saturday. This week’s forecast includes more showers and high temperatures for most of the state.

In Phoenix, the thunderstorms brought wind gusts with speeds ranging between 50 and 60 mph on Saturday, according to Sean Benedict, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Phoenix. At the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport gusts of 61 mph were recorded.

A heat burst event occurred at the airport due to winds since these pushed the dry air toward the surface and temperatures rose almost ten degrees, according to the weather service.

There were some showers in Phoenix although most of the rainfall was seen in places including the Superstition Mountains, **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**, Sun City and Buckeye.

Lightning was also seen across the region progressing from the White Mountains area until the Colorado

River over the course of 12 hours. According to the weather service, there were almost 25,000 flashes.

"We don't typically keep track of what's normal for an event like this, so I can't say whether or not (25,000 flashes) were normal or not," Benedict said. "But the storms yesterday were definitely a little bit stronger than what we typically see." The progression of the storm was a result of the change of wind conditions, according to Benedict. In southern Arizona, most of the thunderstorms on Saturday were severe, according to Aaron Hardin, forecaster at the weather service office in Tucson. There were storms from Rio Rico, up to Green Valley, Tucson and Mammoth, and to the west toward Three Points.

The strong winds left some uprooted trees, and one roof was blown off, according to Hardin. There were also reports of hail, and the biggest one reported was about 1.5 inches in diameter, which is close to the size of a ping pong ball.

"That big doesn't happen very often," Hardin said. "We just had the right ingredients in the atmosphere for that to happen. Typically, we'll get, like, pea-sized hail storm during the monsoon, but we just had the right conditions yesterday to give us bigger hail."

In northern Arizona, the heavy rains have resulted in flash flooding that has damaged structures and forced temporary road closures. This week, anywhere from 30 to 60 members of the National Guard will be in the area to assist with [flood mitigation in the the Schultz/Pipeline flood area](#).



No floods were reported on Saturday, according to Jeremy Mazon, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Flagstaff. There were some scattered storms, especially along the Mogollon Rim and toward the Flagstaff area.

While the precipitation rates haven't been out of the ordinary, Mazon said the challenge is when they happen over wildfire burn scars since it increases the chances of flash flooding.

"So if anything, that that's been our primary concern with these storms is just the location, which is it can be difficult to try to predict exactly where those storms will form," Mazon said.

In central Arizona there were chances of thunderstorms in high terrains on Sunday and overnight a cluster of showers and some storms were expected to develop west of Phoenix, according to Benedict.

Monsoonal moisture will be in the area this week, bringing chances of showers and thunderstorms, especially in high elevation areas.

In Phoenix, high temperatures are expected to drop a little bit to 110 degrees or below.

"So still hot, but not as hot. It's just that time of the year, we're at the number at the peak of our heat season. So regardless, we should still be taking out all precautions necessary," Benedict said.



In southeast Arizona near the border, daily thunderstorms are expected this week, according to Hardin. By Wednesday and through the weekend, most of southeast Arizona is expected to have chances of thunderstorms.

In Tucson, temperatures will be between 102 and 105 degrees, which is about 2 to 4 degrees above normal, according to Hardin. Next weekend, the highs will be around 100 degrees and temperatures will be returning closer to normal. In northern Arizona, scattered showers are expected almost every afternoon this week, according to Mazon.

In this region, temperatures are expected to climb to the upper 80s throughout the week, which is above average for this time of the year, according to Mazon. There is an excessive heat warning for the lower parts of the Grand Canyon and Marble Canyon through the middle of the week as temperatures can reach up to 114 degrees.

“So not only do we have the threat of a thunderstorm ... but we also are watching out and communicating to everyone that temperatures are going to be well above normal and it could become dangerous if people are recreating in the afternoon and not properly hydrating and taking care of themselves,” Mazon said.

Man goes overboard a sailboat on Lake Pleasant and his body is found 2 days later, MCSO says

By FOX 10 Staff
Published July 16, 2022
Updated July 19, 2022

Lake Pleasant drowning victim identified by authorities

MARICOPA COUNTY, Ariz. - A man went underwater in **Lake Pleasant** Saturday afternoon and authorities say two days later that his body was found.

Peoria Fire and Medical Capt. Mario Bravo says a man went overboard from a sailboat without a life jacket and never resurfaced on July 16.

Crews with both Peoria Fire and Medical and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office searched for the man but hadn't been able to find him.

On July 18, the sheriff's office says the body of 36-year-old Spencer Namba was found near Castle Creek Cove at Lake Pleasant.

More deadly incidents on the lake

This incident follows a string of deadly incidents at Lake Pleasant, including a [woman getting her leg severed off](#) on May 21.

Twenty-year-old Neria Aranbayev was found on the night of April 24, about 21 feet below the surface of Lake Pleasant. On May 1, an unidentified man's body was found 25-feet underwater near Jet Ski Point.

An 83-year-old woman was thrown from a boat on May 8 and died. Her name was Rosario Benitez.

On May 15, an 18-year-old's body was recovered from the lake.

Search crews find body of man who jumped off fishing boat at Lake Pleasant

Jul 18, 2022, 4:00 PM
KTAR



(Facebook Photo/Lake Pleasant Regional Park)

PHOENIX — Search crews on Monday found the body of a man who jumped off a fishing boat at **Lake Pleasant** and never resurfaced, authorities said.

The man, whose name has not been revealed, jumped off the boat to cool off at about 5:45 p.m. on Sunday and wasn't wearing a life vest, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

The body was recovered in the area of Castle Creek Cove at about noon, MCSO said.

The identity of the man will be released Tuesday.

No other information was available.

CadenceSEO Announces its team will attend the Ragnar Trail Event in Phoenix

EIN News Desk
July 15, 2022

The team at CadenceSEO will be in attendance November 4-5 at the Ragnar Trail event at McDowell Regional Park in Fountain Hills, AZ

Effectiveness and Efficiency is what your cadence is about and that is what we are about at CadenceSEO — Kevin McLauchlin



GILBERT, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES, July 15, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Gilbert, Arizona: Award Winning **SEO Consulting** company **CadenceSEO** has announced that its team will be in attendance at the 2022 Ragnar Trail Event that will be running November 4-5 at the **McDowell Mountain Regional Park** in Fountain Hills, AZ. The decision to register for this event was made to promote the brand and its commitment to health and fitness as a core concept.

CadenceSEO was started by husband-and-wife team Kevin McLauchlin and Christy Olsen who both in their free time when they are not raising children and doing SEO, are endurance athletes. While the term cadence has many implications when it comes to marketing and SEO the brand was created with the thought of effectiveness and efficiency in endurance sports. To an endurance athlete, the term cadence represents their ability to maintain a high level of performance effectively and efficiently over an extended period.

As a company, the health and well-being of its employees is an important consideration to the leaders of the company. So, as part of a commitment to promoting health and fitness, they have decided to put a team together to gut out the 2-day 120-mile endurance festival known as Ragnar.

About Ragnar
Ragnar is a company that arranges and promotes relay-style endurance races that tasks teams of up to 8 athletes to complete somewhere in the range of 120 miles either on trails or roads depending on the event. The events are set up in a relay where one member of the team will be always on the course until the milage goal is completed. The goal of the company is to promote goal

setting, accomplishment, and all-out craziness when it comes to running. About CadenceSEO

CadenceSEO starting in July 2020 with a vision to offer effective, efficient, and affordable **SEO services** to companies of all sizes. Their high touch, high communication model has been a huge hit with their client base. As they are closing in on its second anniversary the company has grown substantially and has received many accolades in the SEO space. Their commitment to doing things better has allowed them to continue to grow. Their straightforward offerings of SEO Consulting leave no guesswork when it comes to what you are getting and transparency is one of their top principles.

Carefree Mayoral candidate: John Crane

Jul 13, 2022 Updated Jul 13, 2022
The Foothills Focus



Age: 66
Years in Carefree: 33
Years in Arizona: 35
Education: B.S. Mathematics, Villanova University; M.S. Systems Management, University of Southern California; US Navy Nuclear Power School and Submarine School
Job: Sales Representative of materials and equipment used to make semiconductors, JH Crane & Associates, Inc. (28 years) owner

Have you served in public office and, if so, when and where? Carefree town council 2012 to present; Carefree vice mayor 2015 to present.

- Prior to your decision to run, how have you been involved in the community and/or in town government-related activities? Served as a Carefree councilmember and vice mayor, planning and zoning commissioner, Desert Foothills Land Trust vice chair, **Maricopa County Parks and Recreation** commissioner, an HOA president and a hands-on supporter of virtually every town-initiated community event in the past 10 years. A 33-year Carefree resident.
- What prompted you to run? A passion to serve and bring value to the community. Driven by the desire to successfully complete the integration of all Carefree residents into the Carefree Water Company, build a community consensus to ensure financially sound, quality fire protection and encourage economic development without compromising the character of our community.
- What do you bring to the table that would serve Carefree well? Experience having served as a Carefree councilmember and vice mayor. Intimate knowledge of the town's ongoing water integration and public safety challenges. Successful small business owner of 28 years and a fiscal conservative. Demonstrated respectful listener, engaging with residents and business owners. Analytical thought process. I know Carefree.
- Name three top concerns in Carefree and tell how you would solve them. (1) Reliable/quality water: Complete the integration of all residents into the Carefree



Water Company; encourage water conservation; and explore water charging. (2) Arrive at a consensus for a financially sound fire protection system to ensure public safety. (3) Encourage responsible economic development within the town without compromising the character of the town.

- How would you assess the town’s handling of growth and what are your top priorities for future growth? The town has worked to balance development and sales tax revenue generation while preserving the Sonoran Desert, maintaining the character of our town, bringing development with value for our residents and generating sales tax on the periphery of the town and in the town core so as to minimize impact.
- Name something you would change in town government that would improve it. Approve sensible term limits with staggered four-year terms ensuring continuity and preserving institutional knowledge and experience, making for more effective and stronger councilmembers better positioned to engage with town staff and mind resident’s interests. Term limits will legislate turn over, bringing in new candidates. Vote yes on Proposition 474.
- Do you support the town center revitalization project? Why or why not? Yes. The town center must have a robust commercial base to help fund town operations and expanding needs. Development initiatives must be balanced with the sensitivity of maintaining the character of our town, bringing development that brings value to our residents and generating sales tax revenue.
- Do you think Carefree should be spending more to support

museums, arts and culture in the community? Why or why not? While Carefree, given our limited budget, cannot spend more to support museums, arts and culture, we can make our gardens and pavilion available, work with Thunderbird Artists to allow quality art festivals in our streets and act as a facilitator to make connections and enable related events within our town.

- How would you manage the continuing acquisition and expansion of the Carefree Water Company? Complete moving all Carefree residents onto the Carefree Water Company, complete underground tank construction and work with adjacent neighbors to plant vegetation to address their concerns. Prop 472 would require removal and relocation of the water tank at a cost of millions of dollars. Vote no on Proposition 472.
- Is town government sufficiently transparent? What changes would you advocate? While Carefree complies with all transparency and open meeting laws, I will continue, as I have as vice mayor, to immerse myself in the community, listening and speaking with residents. Each council member will be brought to the table, leveraging their strengths and expertise, making them part of every discussion.

There’s A Giant Inflatable Waterpark At Scorpion Bay Marina In Arizona This Summer That’s Loads Of Fun

Posted in [Arizona Seasonal](#) July 11, 2022 by [Katie Lawrence](#)
Only In Your State

If you’re looking for a fun way to beat the heat this summer, check out Paqua Park at Scorpion Bay Marina. This floating waterpark in Arizona is basically a giant obstacle course. It makes for a perfect family outing when you’re trying to stay cool!

Thanks to Paqua Park at Scorpion Bay Marina, your summer just got a major upgrade.



[Facebook/Paqua Park](#)

A floating waterpark in Arizona, Paqua Park is a 7,000 square-foot inflatable obstacle course where you can test your skills and have a blast while doing so.

This epic water park features a variety of different obstacles that take speed, agility, and precision to conquer.



[Facebook/Paqua Park](#)



You'll see everything from slides to climbing walls to even monkey bars.

Children must be at least seven years old and 45 inches tall to enjoy the park, and all participants must listen to a safety briefing before the fun begins.



Facebook/Paqua Park

Each session is 45 minutes long - you can go through the course multiple times, but you'll have to exit and re-attend the briefing between each one.

Life jackets are provided, and everyone - regardless of age or swimming ability - must wear one.



Paqua Park

Footwear is prohibited, with the single exception of aqua socks, which are available for purchase at the park.

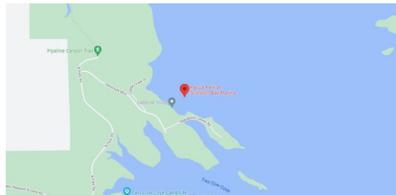
The water in the lake is always at least eight feet deep - usually much more. Even though life jackets are required, all parkgoers should know how to swim just in case.



Paqua Park

If you stumble and fall in, no worries. The water will feel nice on an Arizona summer day.

You'll find the park at Scorpion Bay Marina, which is located within **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**.



Google Maps

The park does have an entrance fee, and the line can be quite long on weekends. Make sure to leave early so you make it to your session on time!

Visit the waterpark's [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for more information, such as hours and ticket prices.

Have you ever been to this floating waterpark in Arizona? If so, we'd love to hear all about your experience. Tell us in the comments! Don't forget to check out our previous article for more [things to do on Lake Pleasant](#).

Address: Paqua Park at Scorpion Bay Marina, 10970 Peninsula Blvd, Morristown, AZ 85342, USA

This Floating Restaurant And Marina In Arizona Is

The Ultimate Summer Playground

Posted in [Arizona Dining](#) July 11, 2022 by [Katie Lawrence](#) Only In Your State

Jádi To'oh isn't the only floating restaurant in Arizona. There's another located on the beautiful Lake Pleasant, and it doubles as a marina. Splash the day away (there's even a floating waterpark!), then refuel with a hearty meal for a summer day well-spent.

Situated on the beautiful **Lake Pleasant**, Scorpion Bay Marina is your one-stop destination for summer fun in Arizona.



Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ

Part marina and part floating restaurant, Scorpion Bay truly has it all. You can spend the day splashing around on the water, then refuel with a delicious meal and refreshing cocktails.



Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ

The marina offers both wet and dry slips where you can store your boat...



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

...or you can rent a variety of different watercrafts if you don't have any of your own (or just don't feel like transporting them).



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

Spend a relaxing afternoon on the lake with family and friends, sharing laughter and soaking up the Arizona sunshine.



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

There's also a 7,000-square-foot floating waterpark that's tons of fun for all ages!



Paqua Park

Scorpion Bay Grill is a floating restaurant in Arizona offering a full all-day menu of burgers, sandwiches, tacos, and other casual fare, plus 360-degree mountain views. It's also dog-friendly!



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

On Friday and Saturday nights, the restaurant transforms into a fine dining establishment turning out seasonal specials using only the freshest ingredients.



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

If one day isn't enough time to enjoy all that Scorpion Bay has to offer, you can even spend the night in one of their floating cabins! Please note that a one-week minimum is required when booking your stay.



[Facebook/Scorpion Bay AZ](#)

Visit the Scorpion Bay Marina [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for more information.

Have you ever been to this floating restaurant in Arizona? If so, we'd love to hear all about your experience. Tell us in the comments! Don't forget to check out our previous article for a nearby [floating waterslide](#) that will take your summer to the next level.