



Carefree—A Sense of Discovery



By John Crane, Town of Carefree
Published on Mar 25, 2022
City Sun Times

The environs that eventually became Carefree in the later half of the 20th century were occupied centuries earlier by Native Americans, most notably the Hohokam. As we enter Spring and wildflowers dot the desert landscape, there is no better time to explore the surrounds of Carefree and discover nearby rock art, or petroglyphs, and habitation sites littered with small ancient pieces of pottery left behind by those who occupied these lands long before our arrival. And while you likely are not the first person to come upon a particular petroglyph or ruin, the sense of discovery and excitement can be exhilarating.

There are many such sites. A few are public and well-marked. Sears-Kay Ruin is the remains of what once was a fortification of Hohokam culture. The ruin is in an area of the Tonto National Forest just east of Carefree. To the west, the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Maricopa County Park includes evidence of prehistoric Hohokam dwellings and rock art sites. The Park service offers pre-register hikes to both. The Tonto National Forest has many such sites and most are unmarked. For the adventurous, a

little research uncovers some of the less visited sites. The book *Hiking Ruins Seldom Seen* by Dave Wilson describes Skull Mesa on the Tonto National Forest north of Spur Cross and Saint Clair Mountain located on the way to Horseshoe Lake. Saint Clair Mountain is also known as the Brazaletes Pueblo for 13 ancient, seashell bracelets found at this 20-plus room ruin.

Of course, private property must always be respected. Although public access is not permitted to the Cave on Cave Creek, an ancient habitation site situated on private property, the Desert Foothills Land Trust, through a conservation easement, offers guided tours to the Cave as many as six times per year. Studies of the cave by the Desert Foothills Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society have documented habitation by a variety of cultures, including the prehistoric Hohokam people.

When visiting rock art and habitation sites, the best practice is to look, photograph, and to leave what is observed as you found them. They may have survived hundreds, if not thousands, of years, but touching, climbing, and digging serve to hasten their degradation. We must respect those who created and left these artifacts and we must respect those who will come after us such that they too can discover and enjoy these artifacts.

To support the protection of cultural sites on public lands, the Arizona Site Steward program was developed by Governor Bruce Babbitt. Site Stewards are volunteers dedicated to protecting and preserving cultural resources and the heritage of Arizona. The primary objective of the Site Steward Program is to report destruction or vandalism of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in Arizona through site monitoring. If you

would like to participate in this program, visit www.azsitesteward.org.

After a morning or afternoon of discovery, there is no better way to cap such an outing than with a bit more discovery within downtown Carefree. Often visitors who may have lived in the Valley for years admit having never explored Carefree, let alone walked a ruin or observed rock art, and are captivated by our small-town ambiance and beauty—the Carefree Desert Gardens, restaurants, galleries, and shops. And like a great archeological find, one realizes that you just cannot get enough of the sense of discovery, no matter the number of visits.

Nonprofit helps students explore science, music

By Doyoon Kim, Peoria Times Staff Writer
Mar 26, 2022



The Music and Science Festival hosted by JC Scholarly will return Saturday, March 26, after a two-year hiatus.

Because of the current COVID-19 situation, the festival will be held outdoors at Lake Pleasant at the **Desert Outdoor Center**.

Founded in 2018, the Music and Science Festival has been a venue for Peoria-area kids to



receive/participate in music and science education.

Sponsored by the city of Peoria Arts Commission, State Parks and Recreation Rangers and professional volunteers will guide kids through science workshop events and music shows.

Activities at the Music and Science Festival showcase Native American jewelry maker Brandy Nelson creating authentic jewelry using handmade tools; gold panning expert Woody Wampler, who was featured on the History Channel, with a gold panning station for kids; general science and electromagnetism; and music performances provided by local groups. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

“Our goal is to help kids nurture a love for music and science. Well-seasoned professionals can guide them toward this goal at these venues,” said Linda Jaussi Christopher, one of the co-founders of JC Scholarly.

After seeing the rise in youth violence across the United States and taking inspiration from her own background as a musician and singer, Christopher started JC Scholarly in 2018 with the help of Dr. Christine Grubb, a psychologist in Arizona, to help youth find peaceful solutions to conflict through music performance and science.

“It became apparent that youth at risk were not able to participate in music. We wanted to have a venue, free for all, where kids could come and volunteer professionals could help them learn skills,” Christopher said.

In addition to the festival, JC Scholarly hosts performance opportunities, classes, music competitions for their students, as

well as scientific training to inspire kids to pursue both fields.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, JC Scholarly was forced to stop all live performances, competitions and events. However, the organization was able to continue through online music competitions. As things start to open back up, they are expecting to have more frequent live events. JC Scholarly is expecting 300 people to attend this year’s Music and Science Festival.

To learn more about the work being done at JC Scholarly and to support their cause, visit jcscholarly.org. Tickets for the festival are available at eventbrite.com.

1 dead following crash along State Route 74 near Lake Pleasant, DPS officials say

By Kenneth Wong
Published March 23, 2022
[Traffic](#)
[FOX 10 Phoenix](#)



PEORIA, Ariz. - Officials with the Arizona Department of Public Safety sat a person has died, following a crash involving two vehicles northwest of the Phoenix Area.

According to a brief statement, the crash happened at around 1:48 p.m., on the westbound lane of State Route 74, at mile marker 16. The mile marker is located southwest of

Lake Pleasant, in a rural part of Peoria.

Craze for psychedelic venom puts rare toad in danger

The Sonoran Desert toad is believed to be the only amphibian that produces a chemical called 5-MeO-DMT
March 23, 2022



The Sonoran Desert
David Millward
March 21 2022 02:30 AM

A North American toad is in danger of extinction because of demand for its hallucinogenic venom.

Renewed interest in psychedelics has made the Sonoran Desert toad sought after, to the alarm of environmentalists. Such drugs are seen as a treatment for mental disorders.

Once common in the US south-west and northern Mexico, the toad is believed to be the only amphibian that produces a chemical called 5-MeO-DMT. That substance is stored in glands behind each eye, explained Robert Villa, president of the Tucson Herpetological Society.

“There’s a psychedelic renaissance and there’s a whole sect of this community devoted to the Sonoran Desert toad,” Mr Villa added.



The venom is said to have remarkable qualities. Some claim it has ended a dependence on methamphetamines or opioids. Dried into crystals and smoked, the venom provides a half-hour “hit” without the downside of hours of hallucinating and vomiting.

Known as “Five” or “Bufo” – from the toad’s scientific name – the venom has celebrity users. Hunter Biden, son of the US President, credited the venom with helping cure his addiction to crack cocaine. “The experience unlocked feelings and hurts I’d buried deep for too long,” he wrote.

Devotees flock to specialist retreats to take the substance, with such a ceremony in East Texas costing \$250 (€226), according to The New York Times. Wealthier devotees at a beachfront in Tulum, Mexico, where the drug is legal, can pay as much as \$8,500 (€7,700). Some retreats have paramedics to deal with any negative reactions.

Although the drug is illegal in the US, authorities turn a blind eye to ceremonies. While some entrepreneurs have started breeding farms, others hunt the toads in the wild. Numbers are dwindling because of rustling, with the olive-green creatures, slightly smaller than an American football, hunted in the desert. Rustlers were filmed at **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area**, a park north of Phoenix, Arizona, making off with an estimated 24 toads.

Learn more
Inevitably, this is having an impact on the population which once flourished in the Sonoran Desert, which extends from California to Arizona, New Mexico and across the border into Mexico itself. (© Telegraph Media Group Ltd 2022)

Payson man dead following police shooting near Lake Pleasant, Peoria officials say

By Kenneth Wong
Published March 20, 2022
Updated 8:22AM

Payson man dead following police shooting near **Lake Pleasant**, Peoria officials say

PEORIA, Ariz. - Officials with the Peoria Police Department have released new details surrounding a deadly officer-involved shooting on the night of March 19.

The shooting, according to a statement released on the morning of March 20, happened near Pleasant Drive and Harbor Boulevard near Lake Pleasant. Officers responded to the scene at around 9:45 p.m. for a threats call involving a suspect had threatened to shoot a family member.

"When officers arrived, the suspect had a gun in his hand and did not obey officer’s commands," read a portion of the statement. "The suspect entered his RV and a few minutes later came to the open front door."

Later on, investigators say the suspect pointed the gun towards officers, and the three officers who responded to the scene fired their weapons.

"Each officer fired at least one round, striking the suspect," read a portion of the statement.

The suspect, identified by officials as 74-year-old Richard Schaare of Payson, was declared dead at the scene. No officers or bystanders were injured.

"Officers involved in this incident were wearing body worn cameras, and they were activated," read a portion of the statement. "This investigation was turned over to detectives from the Glendale Police Department as part of the West Valley Investigative Response Team."

Michelle Metivier was camping with her family nearby when it all happened. "All of a sudden the police came as we were starting to gather around the campfire and said, 'You guys need to evacuate,'" she said.

Metivier heard the first gunshot go off.

"We got the baby up and everybody out of the area," she said. "Then we heard two and at that point, we realized it was an extremely serious situation."

11 Spots for Take a Walk in the Park Day

By Annika Tomlin
College Times
March 19, 2022

March 30 is National Take a Walk in the Park Day — the perfect excuse to do just that. Here are 11 places to visit on March 30. Don’t forget to bring water as temperatures begin to rise.

11. Dos Lagos Park

6200 W. Utopia Road, Glendale
Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

Set between two lakes, this park is great for walks. Take advantage of the picnic tables and grills or bring a blanket and watch the sunset.

10. Cave Creek Regional Park

37019 N. Lava Lane, Cave Creek



Open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (through April 30); 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (May 1 through October 31)

This regional park boasts eight trails ranging from 0.2 miles to 5.8 miles, with a variety of difficulty levels. Get lost in nature for a few hours taking the longer Go John trail (5.8 miles) or go for a stroll on the half-mile Flat Rock trail. Entry into the park is \$7 per car, while hiking, biking and horse riding is an additional \$2.

9. Chaparral Park
5401 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale

Open 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily
Outside of the glitz and glam of Scottsdale, Chaparral Park offers an escape. Walk around the lake, bring the pup to the dog park and enjoy the day outside. Chaparral Park covers 100 acres, making it easy to spend a few hours getting in those steps.

8. Riverview Park
2100 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Mesa

Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
The home to the Chicago Cubs' Sloan Park, Riverview Park is a premier recreation destination. Miles of accessible sidewalks wrap around the facilities, playgrounds and water features. The Rio Salado Pathway travels along the Salt River for walkers, runners and bicyclists to hit up Riverview Park, Sloan Park, Riverview shopping center and Tempe Town Lake.

7. Veterans Oasis Park
4050 E. Chandler Heights Road, Chandler

Open 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily
With 113 acres, a beautiful community fishing lake, scenic hiking and horseback riding trails, tranquil pavilions and an outdoor amphitheater, Veterans Oasis Park hosts plentiful outdoor recreational opportunities. Nestled in southeast Chandler, 78 acres of the park are

designed for groundwater recharge and wetlands, making it the perfect home to an abundance of unique Sonoran Desert flora and wildlife.

6. Desert West Park
6602 W. Encanto Boulevard, Phoenix

Open 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
At 0.48 miles, this is a shorter trail that is great for getting on a fitness kick. Surrounded by soccer and softball fields, walkers are sure to be around during a game or practice. Don't forget to bring water.

5. Steele Indian School Park
300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix

Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
Named after Horace C. Steele, who founded the Steele Foundation in 1980, this park was designed in the spirit of the City Beautiful movement. Its premise is simple: City dwellers need passive, open green space in city centers to take a break from urban living's physical confinement. In other words, take a walk in the park and forget about city life.

4. Tempe Beach Park
80 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe

Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
This 25-acre park offers more than 5 miles of paths and exercise trails, picnic areas, ramadas and the Luis Gonzalez Arizona Diamondbacks Field of Dreams. Plus, it's a great place to take graduation photos.

3. South Mountain Park
10919 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix

Open from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily
At more than 16,000 acres, South Mountain Park/Preserve is one of the largest city parks in the nation. With the Ma Ha Tauk, Gila and Guadalupe mountain ranges, the park has more than 50 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding and

mountain biking. At 2,330 feet, Dobbins Lookout is the park's highest point available to the public. This is the spot to take an unobstructed panoramic picture for Instagram.

2. Rio Vista
Community Park
8866 W. Thunderbird Road, Peoria

Open from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Rio Vista Community Park is a 52-acre park in Peoria that offers a wide array of activities and amenities. It is home to the Rio Vista Recreation Center, multiple athletic fields, playground and splash pad. The park is also home to Peoria's Veterans Memorial Wall, which recognizes all of those who have served and are serving the country.

1. Papago Park
625 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
Gated parking area open from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (trails remain open until 11 p.m.)
Papago Park guests enjoy world-class natural attractions and an extensive trail network through Sonoran Desert habitat. They can also enjoy the parks of two major residents, the Phoenix Zoo and Desert Botanical Garden. Look into WishTrip, a hiking app that adds fun games to the Papago Park trails. CT

LGI Homes Opens Phoenix Area Community in Buckeye

Terravista offers new construction single-family homes from the \$330s
March 16, 2022 07:00 ET |
Source: [LGI Homes, Inc.](#)

PHOENIX, March 16, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [LGI Homes, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: LGIH) today announced the opening of [Terravista](#), its newest community in the Phoenix market. Located in



Buckeye, Arizona, this incredible new community offers brand-new single-family homes filled with upgrades, minutes from major employers and popular amenities.

Located off AZ-85, LGI Homes at **Terravista** offers homebuyers a variety of new construction homes ranging from 1,174 to 2,488 square feet. Each home includes the coveted **CompleteHome™** interior package, providing upgrades like granite countertops, a full suite of energy-efficient Whirlpool® appliances, a kitchen outlet with USB charging capability, and professional front yard landscaping, all at no additional cost. Paired with these spectacular upgrades, the floor plan lineup also showcases covered back patios, spacious bedrooms, and open-concept layouts.

Homeowners will love access to the family-friendly amenities within the community, including a half basketball court, children’s playground, barbecue grills, picnic area, and large green space. These community amenities are perfect for spending time with friends and family. Just outside of the community lies even more adventure – outdoor enthusiasts will love access to hiking and biking at Skyline Regional Park and **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, while sports fanatics will enjoy close proximity to State Farm Stadium and Chase Field.

New homes start in the \$330s. For additional information or to schedule a tour, interested homebuyers are encouraged to call (866) 694-1896 ext 505 or visit LGIHomes.com/Terravista.

About LGI Homes, Inc. LGI Homes, Inc. is a pioneer in the homebuilding industry, successfully applying an innovative and systematic approach to the design,

construction and sale of homes. As one of America’s fastest growing companies, LGI Homes has a notable legacy of more than 18 years of homebuilding excellence, over which time it has closed more than 50,000 homes and has been profitable every year. Headquartered in The Woodlands, Texas, LGI Homes has operations across 35 markets in 19 states and, since 2018, has been ranked as the 10th largest residential builder in the United States based on units closed. Nationally recognized for its quality construction and exceptional customer service, LGI Homes’ commitment to excellence extends to its more than 900 employees, earning the Company numerous workplace awards at the local, state and national level, including Top Workplaces USA’s 2022 Cultural Excellence Award. For more information about LGI Homes and its unique operating model focused on making the dream of homeownership a reality for families across the nation, please visit the Company’s website at www.lgihomes.com.

Easily customizable hike has the best of San Tan Mountain Regional Park. How to try it

Mare Czinar
Special for The Republic
Azcentral
March 16, 2022



San Tan Mountain Regional Park in Queen Creek is a 10,198-acre

mountain-bound property that anchors the far southeast reach of the 10 Maricopa County Regional Parks that circle metro Phoenix. The park’s nine nonmotorized trails plus a short interpretive loop provide options for trail users of every level of experience.

Situated in a hilly expanse bolstered by Goldmine Mountain in the north and the Malpais Hills in the south, the park’s 20+ miles of trails wander among lush desert vegetation, scoured washes and scenic high points with excellent valley vistas.

One moderate route to try uses parts of the Littleleaf, Goldmine and San Tan trails to connect with the park’s northwest classic — the Dynamite Trail. All three trails are also part of the 315-mile, Valley-circumnavigating Maricopa Trail. Hiking the Maricopa Trail:

The 2.5-mile Dynamite Trail may be accessed by way of connecting routes from either the main park trailhead or the Goldmine trailhead at the park’s northwest end. With extra amenities like real restrooms and a visitor center, the main trailhead is a good place to start.



Begin with an easy 0.7-mile walk on the Littleleaf Trail. While it gains only 85 feet in elevation, it’s enough to serve up appetizer vistas of distant Tonto National Forest and Mazatzal Wilderness mountain peaks.

This warmup segment is followed by a 0.4-mile hike on the Goldmine Trail, which undulates through



drainages and cholla forests before arriving at the junction with the San Tan Trail, where Goldmine begins its strenuous uphill haul. For this trip, head left on the San Tan Trail and continue 0.4 mile to link up with the destination route — the Dynamite Trail. It’s along this segment where the mountainous nature of the park becomes headily apparent. The Malpais Hills jut abruptly on the near horizon while the green valleys of the Gila River Indian Community peek out to the southwest.



The Dynamite Trail starts out by tracing the western foothills of Goldmine Mountain, ducking through ironwood-cluttered washes, acres of creosote shrubs and many impressive stands of saguaros and cholla cactus.

At 2.4 miles from the trailhead, the route takes on a series of switchbacks that ease the climb to a mountain saddle. On the breezy divide, a fresh set of views open up over sprawling East Valley suburbs that stretch into the Superstition Mountains and, on clear days, all the way to the New River Mountains to the far north.

Viewing benches placed at scenic overlooks throughout the route, including on the saddle, invite trail users to sit awhile and soak up the beauty. From the saddle, the trail spirals downhill over long, lazy curves, passing by historic gravesites before reconnecting with the Goldmine Trail near the Goldmine trailhead on Wagon Wheel Road.

Unless you parked a car-shuttle vehicle there, return the way you came. Or, for a more difficult return route, loop it up with the 2.5-mile Goldmine Trail for a challenging climb to the park’s highest point and even more outstanding views. Hiking in San Tan Mountain Regional Park

Length: 4.1 miles one way or 8.2 miles round trip as described here. Use the Goldmine trailhead for a car shuttle hike.
Rating: Moderate.

Elevation: 1,617-1,894 feet.
Getting there: From the south, use the San Tan Mountain Regional Park main trailhead at 6533 W. Phillips Road, Queen Creek. From U.S. 60 in Mesa, take Ellsworth Road (Exit 191). Go south to Hunt Highway and continue east to Thompson Road. Go south on Thompson Road to Phillips Road and follow the signs to the park entrance. The park has restrooms, water, a visitor center, equestrian staging area and picnic tables.

From the north, use the Goldmine trailhead: From Hunt Highway north of the main park entrance, go 1.2 miles west on Empire Boulevard to Wagon Wheel Road, turn south and follow the road 1 mile to the Goldmine trailhead. If no attendant is on duty, pay the entry fee in cash at the metal kiosk with payment envelopes. Follow the Goldmine Trail 0.2 mile to connect with the Dynamite Trail. There are portable restrooms at the trailhead but no other amenities.

Admission: \$7 per vehicle or \$2 per person walk-in/bike-in fee.
Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.
Details: San Tan Mountain Regional Park, <https://www.maricopacountyparks.net>.

My 5 Favorite Springtime Experiences In The Arizona Desert

Travel Awaits
CAROL COLBORN
March 14, 2022

When I experienced fall in the Northeast for the very first time, I fell madly in love. I couldn’t stop dreaming of living with those trees that paint the sky from palettes of gold, red, orange, and yellow. It wasn’t the Northeast, but the home I bought in Seattle had such a special maple tree by the living room balcony. When winter came, though, all its beautiful leaves fell! That’s when, being originally from the tropics, I knew I could not stand the height of winter in such a place for long.

So when at the end of our 8-year full-time RVing phase, my husband and I looked for a place to settle, it had to be further south. That’s how we discovered the Arizona desert, an environment usually described as barren, waterless, and without vegetation. Considered dull, uninteresting, even unlivable due to extreme heat or cold, people wonder why others would choose to live in a city like Phoenix or Tucson. It’s simple, really. We are people who can bear the desert heat in summer better than the winter cold up north. Happily, we have been rewarded with these springtime experiences in the desert that rival fall leaf-peeping in the north.

1. Relishing Simple Things At Home
Springtime is when temperatures are ideal at home. Weatherspark, my favorite forecaster of average temperatures anywhere in the world, says that from March 1 to May 31, highs around Phoenix are 75 to 90 and lows are 55 to 70. Because it is also not humid but dry, it is about as



perfect a climate as can be for people like us. It's that time of the year when we turn on neither the air conditioner nor the heater. We simply open the windows to let fresh air in!

It's somewhat chilly air that wakes you up, giving you perfect mornings with your hot coffee, chocolate, or tea. A little later, it becomes a great time to putz around the garden, go around in a golf cart, and soak up bountiful vitamin D. The nights are also great for cocktails on the patio, another little walk with the dog, or for going out in style and comfort.

2. Seeing Colors Burst Out Everywhere

When we first arrived in the Phoenix area, I thought I would only be seeing drab colors — until I saw the wildflowers sprout in spring! Desert marigold, brittlebush, globemallow, purple lupine, and chuparosa flowers bring the Sonoran Desert alive with the sights and smells of a fresh spring season. They paint the desert floor in the entire spectrum and carpet the valleys and hillsides. Several regional parks —

Estrella, White Tank, and Cave Creek — and state parks — **Lost Dutchman, and Picacho Peak** — are some we visit during this time. The flowers come out more when winter has been especially wet and snow that has collected in mountain tops produces larger melts. Then a desert super bloom happens.

The wildflowers truly transform the desert floor, but that is not what really delights me. At first, I hung on to the notion that I still preferred fall in the Northeast because the color swatches are so huge; they are splashed on the big trees! Well, imagine my delight when I witnessed the **Arizona state tree**, the desert trees called Palos Verdes — green sticks in Spanish, all parts of which from the leaves to the branches, limbs, and trunk are green — turn yellow in spring! Their little yellow

blossoms sprout, bloom with abandon, and turn the crowns entirely yellow. Imagine the scene when there are miles of them together. You will appreciate my utter delight because I am an avid xanthophile (a lover of the color yellow)!

There are two native Arizona Palo Verdes: Foothills and Blue. They bloom at separate times, so the golden blaze stays around for two months, from mid-March to mid-May. The Foothill Palo Verde has more yellowish bark and lighter yellow flowers. Blue Palos Verdes have twigs, young branches, and leaves that are bluish-green and flowers that border on orange. Both are everywhere: in parking lots, freeway banks, private gardens, and public lands.

The first to bloom are the Blues, with the Foothills following about two to three weeks later. Their flowers are both five-petaled, with the banner petal standing out above the plane of the other four. In Blues, the banner petal is yellow, sometimes with orange spots. The Foothills' banner petal is white. Once these flowers are pollinated, they produce edible beans.



3. Enjoying Bodies Of Water

Some people react with disbelief when told that Arizona is blessed with 128 lakes and seven major rivers. So endowed, the desert beckons outdoor enthusiasts to swim, hike, raft, ski, and fish, especially during spring. The same snow melts that water the plants guarantee that these bodies of water come alive. In springtime, waterfalls gush, lakes fill, and rivers rise.

In fact, there are over 15 waterfalls in the state; many are in the Havasu region, in particular, the spectacular **Havasu Falls**. Close to where we live, the usually dry one on the Waterfall Drive of the **White Tank Mountain Regional Park** finally gushes after the rains in February and March.



DESERT BELLE ON SAGUARO LAKE (PHOTO CREDIT: CAROL COLBORN)

And because the lakes are full, we enjoy the two “steamboats” that ply the two gorgeous lakes all day — the Dolly Steamboat on **Canyon Lake** and the Desert Belle on **Saguaro Lake** — offering lunches, cocktails, and dinners on tour. The many beaches come alive around these lakes, especially the great **Lake Havasu** where the **UK's London Bridge** was reconstructed; **Apache Lake**, which offers motel rooms from where you can literally step on the beaches; and the wonderful playground that **Lake Powell** has become.

There are also seven major rivers in **Arizona**. The mighty Colorado River is one and Salt, Gila, Verde, Blue,



Virgin, and Agua Fria are the others. There is rafting, tubing, and kayaking galore. My husband and I particularly enjoy photographing the wild horses of the Salt River Valley playing in the tributaries of the Gila River. If you'd like to do the same, consider my tips for [how to spot the wild horses in Salt River Canyon, Arizona, here](#).

4. Going To Markets, Festivals, Ghost Towns, And Ball Fields
Daytimes are perfect so markets come alive at this time in the desert. There always seems to be a farmers market to go to, every single day of the week. It is delightful that tropical fruits like avocados, watermelons, and cantaloupes, citrus like oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and lime, and even vegetables like artichokes, palm hearts, and Brussels sprouts are dirt cheap. At this time of the year, I rarely source produce from the groceries.

Festivals also abound, from arts and crafts to music, film, and wine and everything in between. Go to the Indian Fair + Market run by one of the best Native American art museums in the country, [Heard Museum of Phoenix](#), the Nascar Weekend at the [Phoenix Raceway](#), or the massive [Maricopa County Fair](#) (check dates ahead and plan your visit accordingly). Open-air concerts and drive-in theaters are plentiful. Even ghost towns like [Goldfield](#) come alive with gunfight reenactments, stagecoach runs, and steam locomotive tours offered again after winter closures.

Even sports teams choose springtime in the desert to train. Come to see your favorite ballplayers practice at the [Cactus League Spring Training](#) in ball fields around Phoenix — from the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Chicago Cubs to the Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Colorado Rockies, Kansas City

Royals, LA Angels, LA Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners, and Texas Rangers. When not in practice, I bet the players thoroughly appreciate springtime in the desert!

5. Visiting National Parks And Monuments

This is the best time to visit the [Arizona national parks and monuments](#) that the area is known for: Sedona, Grand Canyon, Walnut Canyon National Monument, Wupatki National Monument, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Petrified Forest, and beyond. You'll be pleased with how they are dotted with springtime flowers. And, in addition to the full blooming of the cacti at Saguaro National Park, the same thing happens at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, where creamy blossoms open during the evenings in spring. In fact, all cacti bloom in spring!

Winter in the desert can be chilly, so we go farther south to Mexico. And the heat of summer, though no worse than the humid heat of the Midwest, motivates us to visit our children who all live in great summer places. Fall used to be my favorite season, hands down, until we came to the Phoenix area. It is such a paradise in spring. Besides, spring now means more to me than fall: It signals the beginning of life rather than the end of one.

We make it a point to be home from all our travels in April and May. That is the time in the desert when it's as if the sun has unloaded its energy, lending its rays to everything it's touched, and the color yellow permeates the whole scene without the heat associated with the brightness of it all. I chose the right place to make our home. And it's the time you should come and visit us!

State Route 74 reopens near Lake Pleasant after 4-hour closure due to crash

Mar 12, 2022, 5:03 PM | Updated: 5:03 pm



People spend their Independence day holiday at Lake Pleasant on July 04, 2020 in Morristown, Arizona. Arizona is one of the 19 states with increasing coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, reporting a total of 94,553 cases, with nearly 2,700 new infections and 17 additional deaths July 4. (Photo by Christian Petersen/Getty Images)

PHOENIX — Both lanes of State Route 74 at milepost 19 near [Lake Pleasant Regional Park](#) have reopened after nearly a four-hour delay due to a crash, according to Arizona Department of Transportation.

The closure happened just east of Castle Hot Springs Road.

Following the opening of both lanes, motorists are advised to expect residual delays, according to ADOT.

B Home Announces the Grand Opening of The Enclaves at Desert Oasis, a New-Home Community in Surprise, Arizona

Homebuilder offers personalized, new homes in a popular master plan, priced from the \$390,000s. March 12, 2022



KB Home announces the grand opening of The Enclaves at Desert Oasis, a new-home community in Surprise, Arizona. (Photo: Business Wire)



March 11, 2022 08:00 AM Eastern Standard Time
PHOENIX--(BUSINESS WIRE)--
KB Home (NYSE: KBH) today announced the grand opening of The Enclaves at Desert Oasis, a new, single-family home community in Surprise, Arizona. Located at North 179th Avenue and West Patton Road just north of U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 303, these new homes are situated in the popular master plan of Desert Oasis. The community is close to shopping, dining, entertainment and outdoor recreation, including several golf courses and boating, fishing, camping and hiking at **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**. Homeowners will also enjoy easy access to family friendly fun at the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park as well as sports and entertainment venues such as State Farm Stadium, Gila River Arena, Peoria Sports Complex and Surprise Stadium.

“As with other KB Home communities, The Enclaves at Desert Oasis will offer home shoppers the opportunity to purchase a new KB home that can be personalized to reflect their lifestyle and needs.”

The new homes at The Enclaves at Desert Oasis showcase desirable design characteristics like spacious kitchens overlooking large great rooms, expansive bedroom suites with walk-in closets, ample storage space and large backyards. The community’s floor plans feature up to five bedrooms and three baths, and range in size from approximately 1,500 to 2,600 square feet. Homebuyers will enjoy the master plan’s stunning mountain and desert views as well as its great amenities, which include a pool, park, volleyball court, walking trails and on-site K–8 school.

“Our new homes at The Enclaves at Desert Oasis are situated in a popular master plan in Surprise, Arizona, and convenient to U.S. Highway 60 and Loop 303. The new community features family friendly amenities and is close to shopping, dining, entertainment and outdoor recreation,” said Kevin McAndrews, President of KB Home’s Phoenix division. “As with other KB Home communities, The Enclaves at Desert Oasis will offer home shoppers the opportunity to purchase a new KB home that can be personalized to reflect their lifestyle and needs.”

KB Home stands out from other homebuilders as the company gives homebuyers exceptional choice and control. KB Home starts by offering a wide variety of homes at an affordable price. From there, the builder gives buyers the ability to personalize their homes from floor plans to exterior elevations, from design options to where they live in

the community. The KB Home team works hand in hand with homeowners every step of the way so they have a real partner in the process.

Every KB home is designed to be ENERGY STAR® certified thanks to the quality construction techniques and materials utilized that ultimately deliver significant savings on utility bills compared to used homes. Additionally, all new KB homes are designed to deliver an enhanced indoor environment and include high performance ventilation systems, low- or zero-VOC products and other features guided by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Indoor airPLUS standards.

The Enclaves at Desert Oasis sales office and model homes are open for private in-person tours by appointment, and walk-in visits are welcome. Homebuyers also have the flexibility to arrange a live video tour with a sales counselor. Pricing begins in the \$390,000s.

For more information on KB Home, call 888-KB-HOMES or visit kbhome.com.

No spring training in Phoenix? Try the Musical Instrument Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright, Dale Chihuly and more

Published: Mar. 10, 2022, 10:16 a.m. Cleveland.com



Dusk at the Wigwam resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. The resort was founded by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., which farmed cotton in the area for decades.

By [Susan Glaser, cleveland.com](#)
GOODYEAR, Arizona – I came to the desert for baseball, but found Elvis Presley, Frank Lloyd Wright and Dale Chihuly instead.

I also found Jack and Kathy Kristofco from Highland Heights, whom I met on a recent afternoon at the Guardians team shop in Goodyear, 17 miles west of Phoenix. On the day we met, the Guardians were supposed to play the Milwaukee Brewers at Goodyear Ballpark, the team’s spring-training home since 2009. Even after they learned spring training would be delayed (canceled entirely?), the Kristofcos decided to make the trek to Arizona. “It’s a good time to get out of Cleveland,” said Kathy, who noted the inches of

snow on the ground at home when she left.

And I felt the same way.

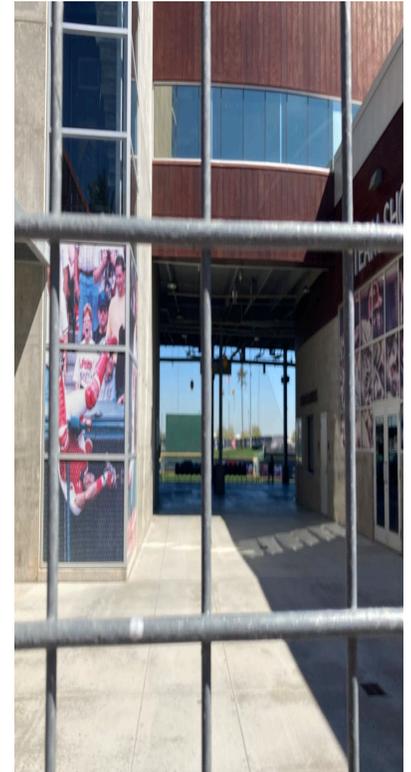
I organized this trip around spring training, but I wasn’t going to let Major League Baseball’s infuriating inability to resolve its labor issues ruin all my fun. I went to the desert anyway.

In the absence of baseball, I spent an afternoon at the Musical Instrument Museum, filled with thousands of instruments from around the world set to an incredible soundtrack. I revisited Taliesin West, the Scottsdale-based winter home and studio of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, which is hosting a stunning special exhibit of Dale Chihuly glass art.

And I got reacquainted with the lush Wigwam resort, founded by executives from the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., who came to the Arizona desert from Akron in 1916 to farm cotton for use in tires.

Finally, I discovered a new bed and breakfast at the base of the **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, drank some good local beer and took a driving tour of Goodyear, which has grown immensely since my last visit in 2009, its population up nearly 50% to almost 100,000.

Yes, it all would have been even better with Shane Bieber on the mound and Jose Ramirez at third base. But, as Kathy Kristofco reminded me as we chatted outside a shuttered Goodyear Ballpark, “There’s no crying in baseball.” Here then, a few tear-free ideas for filling time in and around Phoenix this spring:



Looking through the fence at an empty Goodyear Ballpark, where the Guardians should be playing spring baseball this month.



An exhibit on musical instruments in China at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix.

Musical Instrument Museum
This museum, which opened in 2010, didn't exist the last time I was in Phoenix. Today, it's one of the region's top attractions, and with good reason. My husband and I spent four hours here and easily could have stayed twice as long, wandering the galleries, traveling the globe through the universal language of music.

The museum was the brainchild of Target founder Bob Ulrich, who reportedly got the idea after visiting a similar facility in Brussels. He chose Phoenix, in part, because of its growing size and tourist base and relative dearth of cultural attractions, at least compared to many Northern cities, including his hometown of Minneapolis.

The 180,000-square-foot building in northeast Phoenix includes nearly

10,000 instruments on display, from an elaborate grand piano built for Russian Tsar Nicholas I in 1826 to handmade, hand-held thumb pianos, the ancient percussive instrument used across Africa during ceremonial functions.

There's a Civil War-era bass drum from the 51st Ohio Infantry of the Union Army used during the Battle of Chickamauga and a viola fashioned out of trash from a landfill in Paraguay. There's a conch shell trumpet from Mexico and a cornet owned by Louis Armstrong's teacher.

Cleveland's H.N. White Co. is well represented, with a 1920s-era patented Saxello, as well as a King baritone, circa 1910-1915. And there's a set of musical spoons from Cleveland's Trophy Music Co.

The exhibits highlight both the dramatic differences in a culture's approach to music and instruments, in the present and through time, as well as the unifying qualities of the art – "the language of the soul," according to the museum's motto. And even though the museum is ostensibly about the instruments – it's really about the music.

Upon entering the museum, every visitor is given a headset, which automatically connects to the exhibit you're closest to. You don't have to enter numbers of push buttons – the music plays automatically, as you wander from exhibit to exhibit, from Beethoven to blues, Johnny Cash to Alice Cooper.

Geographic galleries take up the entire second floor – with huge spaces devoted to the instruments and music of Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and the United States. The instruments range from a simple flute made from antelope horns in Tonga to the most intricately carved violins in Italy.

On the first floor: The Artists Gallery, which includes instruments from dozens of well-known musicians – Elvis Presley's Martin D-28 acoustic guitar, played during final live performance in 1977; Roberta Flack's Steinway grand piano from 1922; and Pablo Casals' cello.

I could have spent hours in this gallery alone – a mini version of our Rock Hall, but broader in musical scope. I spent at least 10 minutes mesmerized by a video of Clara Rockmore, a prodigy violinist who popularized the theremin, an instrument that uses electrical currents to make sound. Honestly, I had never heard of the device.

Also on the first floor is the Experience Gallery, where would-be musicians can practice on an Indonesian gamelan, a banjo, bongos, ukulele and more. Don't miss it.

Information: Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, at 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., just off Arizona 101. Cost is \$20. For more: mim.org



An exhibit on Elvis at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix.



Dale Chihuly's "Black Saguaros" at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale.

Taliesin West and Dale Chihuly
Wright was 70 years old when he acquired 600 acres east of Phoenix for a winter home and studio in 1937. “He wants to rekindle and revitalize his career,” said Taliesin West guide Deb Moon.

And that he does.

Wright did some of his most inspired work from this oasis in the desert, a collection of low-slung buildings where he spent much of the final two decades of his life, living and working among dozens of apprentices. Here, he perfected his concept of organic architecture, of fully incorporating buildings into their surroundings.

Our tour weaved inside and out, stopping first in the Garden Room,

where we were invited to sit on Wright’s built-in furniture (usually a taboo on a Wright tour). “The low chairs offer better views outside, and bring the landscape in,” said Moon.

Other stops include the six-sided cabaret theater, designed for excellent sound; and the drafting room – “the heart of the fellowship,” according to Moon -- with designs for New York City’s Guggenheim Museum on the tables. “Some apprentices would stay for a year or two,” said Moon. “Or you could be here your entire life.” And indeed, two former Wright apprentices still live on the grounds, according to Moon.

As for why it’s called Taliesin West? “We’re west of Wisconsin,” said Moon, referring to the location of Wright’s original home and studio, Taliesin – Welsh for shining brow – in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Both Taliesins are among the eight properties included on the new UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrating Wright’s works.

The structures here are made of rounded river rock, quartzite and desert sand, with plenty of access to natural light. “He wants to be living in nature, he wants to be inspired by nature,” she said.

Glass windows were added years after initial construction, as was electricity and air conditioning, as the campus “evolved from rustic to more refined,” according to Moon.

Adding more refinement: The glasswork of Dale Chihuly, who has six art installations in and around the Wright structures, part of “Chihuly in the Desert,” a special exhibit through June 22. Among the pieces: “Alabaster and Amber Spire Tower,” spiky and cactus-like with desert hues, at the entry plaza; “Red Reeds” in the triangular reflecting pond in front of the complex, picking up on



Wright's love of red; and "Black Saguaros" on the lawn, a reflection of the desert landscape all around.

Tours: Guided, 90-minute tours of Taliesin West, which incorporate Chihuly's life and works with Wright's, are \$49; self-guided, outdoor-only admission is \$35. Tours frequently sell out in advance (ours did). For information: franklloydwright.org/taliesin-west-tours.

Extend your Chihuly experience at Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden, which is running a parallel "Chihuly in the Desert" exhibit. Information: dbg.org.

Read more: [The Great Wright Road Trip: Touring nine Frank Lloyd Wright destinations in western Pennsylvania, New York](#)



"Chihuly in the Desert" is a special exhibit at Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd

Wright's winter home and studio in Scottsdale.



Cotton decorates the lobby of the historic Wigwam resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

The Wigwam resort Wright first came to Phoenix in the late 1920s to consult on the Arizona Biltmore, one of the city's swankiest resorts.

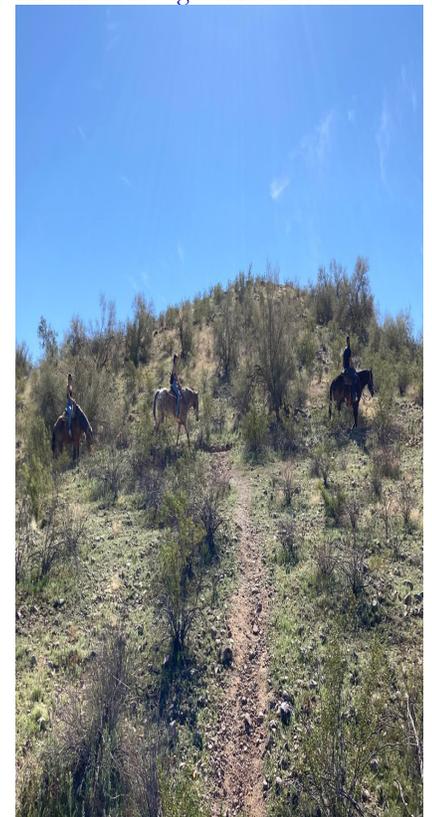
The same year the Biltmore debuted, another resort opened in the region – the Wigwam, on the far west side of the town, developed by the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., initially for company executives, but open to the public in 1929. Goodyear sent executive Paul Litchfield to the Arizona desert in 1916 in search of land to grow cotton for use in tires. The company stopped farming in the area in the 1960s, and sold the resort in the mid-1980s – but its legacy persists, in the form of its namesake city, as well as Litchfield Park – where the

Wigwam is located – named after the former CEO.

The resort is now owned by JDM Partners, one of the largest landowners in Arizona, headed by former Phoenix Suns owner Jerry Colangelo.

Even if you don't intend to stay here – room rates start at about \$250 in the off-season -- it's worth checking out the property, with lush flowers and towering cacti, three golf courses, three restaurants, two pools, a spa and more. Stop in for a drink at the Wigwam Bar or lunch at Red Allen's Bar & Grill, named after the resort's long-time golf pro. Don't miss the Organization House, off the hotel lobby, part of resort's original core, where Goodyear executives used to gather, and where the tread of a Goodyear tire is still incorporated into the room's historic windows.

Information: wigwamresort.com





Horseback riding in **Estrella Mountain Regional Park** near Goodyear, Arizona.

Where to stay: Rockin' M Bar Ranch
Another option for an overnight in the West Valley: Rockin' M Bar Ranch Luxury Bed and Breakfast, at the base of Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Mark and Susan Brutcher, retired engineers, built the property and opened it to guests in 2016, with four overnight suites available November through March.

The couple have two horses on the property, a hot tub, plus an amazing night sky away from city lights. They host an afternoon happy hour and serve up a terrific breakfast (mushroom omelet and French toast during our stay).

The inn has some unexpected availability in March due to the lack of spring baseball, with more than a dozen cancellations in recent weeks. "It's our busiest month," said Susan. "We're usually completely booked at this time."

Room rates run \$180-\$190.
Information: azluxurybnb.com.

After breakfast, my husband and I burned off a few calories hiking the 2.5-mile Baseline Trail at nearby Estrella Mountain Regional Park. We didn't see many other hikers, but we passed numerous travelers on horseback, on riding tours organized through Corral West Adventures.

Where to dine: Located just north of Goodyear Ballpark, Saddle Mountain Brewing Company (saddlemountainbrewing.com), open since 2014, is also lamenting the loss of spring training.

In addition to fewer fans stopping in before and after games, the brewpub also sells beer at the ballpark, a special sessional IPA dubbed Hop Fly, which, regrettably, was being tapped the day after we stopped in. Instead, we sampled a flight of six other tasty brews, including Hop

Snob, Problem Child and 5G. Also recommended: the Reuben sliders, with house-smoked corned beef.

Restaurant manager John Acosta regretted the loss of another year of spring training, after 2020's shortened season due to COVID and last year's limited-capacity crowds. Feeling optimistic earlier this year, Acosta ordered a couple hundred Saddle Mountain Brewing spring-training T-shirts. But, he added, "I didn't put the year on them – just in case."

Getting to Goodyear: Goodyear is located in Phoenix's fast-growing West Valley, which also includes the communities of Buckeye, Surprise, Avondale, Litchfield Park and Glendale. Among the regional attractions: Glendale's [State Farm Stadium](#), home to the Arizona Cardinals, the Fiesta Bowl and host of the 2023 Super Bowl; [Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park](#) in Litchfield Park; [Phoenix Raceway](#) in Avondale, which hosts two NASCAR events annually; [White Tank Mountain Regional Park](#) in Buckeye and more.

Numerous airlines fly nonstop between Cleveland and Phoenix, including United, American, Frontier and Southwest. Goodyear is about a 30-minute drive west of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Wood Partners Debuts 330-Unit Alta Raintree Luxury Apartment Community in Highly Sought-After North Scottsdale

Market
MARCH 09, 2022
MultifamilyBiz



SCOTTSDALE, AZ - Leading multifamily real estate developer Wood Partners announced the official grand opening of its latest luxury residential community, Alta Raintree, located in Scottsdale, Arizona.

This new luxury apartment community is situated on E Raintree Drive in North Scottsdale, one of the most sought-after residential areas in the Phoenix Metro. Alta Raintree offers residents easy access to renowned outdoor activities, dining, nightlife and shopping, including Kierland Commons and Scottsdale Quarter, which offer some of the best retail options in Scottsdale. Residents of Alta Raintree can also enjoy a round of golf at the many nearby courses, or explore more than 40-miles of hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**.

"We are pleased to welcome residents to Wood Partners' newest development—Alta Raintree—located in one of Scottsdale's most coveted neighborhoods," said Todd Taylor, Managing Director. "This latest top-of-the-line community truly captures the high level of features and amenities that Wood Partners is known for, while also providing residents with access to some of the city's best retail, entertainment and dining offerings just minutes from their front door."

Alta Raintree offers 330 apartment homes consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans. Each unit features modern architectural



finishes complete with high quality interior packages, while many exterior facing units offer stunning views of Scottsdale and the McDowell Mountains. Key features include stainless steel appliances, luxurious quartz kitchen countertops with tile backsplash, electronic door entry, and wood-inspired plank flooring to create a timeless and tasteful atmosphere for residents. Additionally, units boast Kohler® bathroom accessories with illuminated mirrors and frameless showers, as well as in-unit washer and dryer sets. Select units feature additional upgrades including side-by-side refrigerators, double ovens, vent hoods and wine refrigerators to bring an added touch of luxury.

Alta Raintree offers a plethora of unique community amenities for residents to enjoy, including a Sky Lounge with expansive views of the McDowell Mountains, a resort-style pool with tanning deck and jacuzzi, and an outdoor game courtyard and putting green. The property is also outfitted with an on-site pet park and multiple outdoor entertainment areas complete with grilling stations. Indoors, residents have access to a fitness center featuring on-demand yoga, a meditation area, a Wi-Fi lounge, a conference area with micro-offices, clubroom and an on-site library and speakeasy. Urbo Market and coffee bar, the on-site convenience market concept created by Wood Partners, will offer coffee, wine, gourmet snacks and more to residents as well.

First Sunday of Lent: We are tempted like Jesus was

Mar 5, 2022
by Mary M. McGlone
National Catholic Reporter



*The sun sets behind a desert view in the **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek, Arizona. Jesus' desert sojourn began immediately after his baptism where he heard God proclaim, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (CNS/Nancy Wiechec)*

Jesus was really tempted? If you think it's a widely accepted idea, Google reactions to *The Last Temptation of Christ*. When Nikos Kazantzakis' book came out in 1955, the Catholic Church added it to the "[Index of Forbidden Books](#)," the list that named literature that could put a person's eternal salvation at risk. (For a time, it included works by Descartes, Copernicus and even [Les Misérables](#).)

As a [movie](#), *The Last Temptation of Christ* incited its own corps of outraged critics, none of whom seemed to comprehend that Kazantzakis suggested that Jesus knew temptation but did not succumb to it.

First Sunday of Lent
[March 6, 2022](#)
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

Remembering that the evangelists played down Jesus' baptism lest we see him as a disciple of John, it's pretty amazing that Matthew, Mark and Luke all tell the story of the temptation. When we think about the reality of Jesus' temptations, scholars tend to suggest that this is a story the evangelists would not have invented. It must have come from something Jesus shared with his disciples about his own experience.

A key to Luke's telling is that the devil introduces the first and third temptations with the challenge, "If you are the Son of God."

That reminds us that Jesus' desert sojourn began immediately after his baptism where he heard God proclaim, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Between the baptism and this scene, Luke recorded Jesus' genealogy, a list that begins by saying that Jesus was thought to be the son of Joseph and takes the lineage all the way back to Adam — whom Luke also calls a son of God. Luke seems to imply that Jesus' struggle to understand and live the vocation of being son of God was both unique to him and applicable to all the descendants of Adam.

Luke adds one distinctive detail to his version of the temptations. While Mark and Matthew end this scene with angels ministering to Jesus, Luke says that the devil "departed from him for a time." (Note: Luke depicts angels at Jesus' birth and not again until his agony in the garden, but in [Luke 22:28](#) Jesus tells his disciples, "You have stood by me in my time of temptations.")

Luke presents the temptations as Jesus' struggle to live as a faithful son of God. The challenge to turn stones to bread focuses on self-preservation. It was not simply a question of hunger, but the purpose of his life: Would he live self-assured and comfortable or risk security for service and rely on a community of faith? Because Jesus understood how prioritizing his own needs and desires could undermine his mission, he would later send his disciples out on mission without provisions, ready to rely on the power of the Gospel alone.

The bargain the devil offered Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world



implied accepting the methodology of the powerful: fear and coercion and a rule book that says it doesn't matter if might makes right because might can trump everything else.

Finally, if Jesus wasn't going to live for himself alone and wasn't going to seek power over all else, perhaps he should just say, "Whatever happens must be God's will. If I am not supposed to die today, the angels will save me even if I jump off the temple tower."

We believe that the man named Jesus of Nazareth was a human being in every sense of the word. Luke tells us that his time in the desert previewed the confusing situations about which he would have to discern and the hard choices he would have to make as he lived out his vocation as a unique son of God. We could read many of Jesus' interactions with his disciples as parts of the conversations in which he shared his own temptations to encourage them in their struggles to live as pleasing daughters and sons of God.

Anyone who lives with passion, anyone who becomes deeply committed to the cause of Jesus will be tempted in the same ways he was. The trickiest thing about the temptations is that they arrive in the camouflage of good ideas, even as ways to advance the reign of God. (The devil is an expert at disguise: slicker than fake news and much subtler than our ads that claim absurdities like the idea that love is contained in a particular make of car.)

We can be grateful to Luke for telling us that temptation was not a one-time event for Jesus any more than it is for us. With that in mind, today's Gospel invites us into our 40 days of Lent as a time to contemplate and learn from Jesus' decisions about how to be a faithful

Son of God. He did it to show us how to do the same.

This story appeared in the [Feb 18-March 3, 2022](#) print issue under the headline: We are tempted like Jesus was.

Peoria group helps at-risk students and youth with disabilities through science and performing arts

Roxanne De La Rosa
Arizona Republic
March 7, 2022

As a young girl, Linda Jaussi Christopher dreamed of being a professional singer, performing in her Idaho front yard for friends and strangers walking down her street.

Christopher eventually became a teacher, but never stopped performing. Along the way, she even created a stage and online character named "America's Favorite Grandmother" that, among other things, trained kids for talent competitions.

In 2019, her interests led her to partner with a psychologist and her husband to create JC Scholarly, a Peoria-area nonprofit that provides music tutors for youth with disabilities and low-income students. The group works to also teach students stage skills and how to overcome performance anxiety.

The group awards scholarships and hosts two music competitions each year.

"Who knows what a child living in poverty, or a developmentally delayed person may create if they had a little help. ... It's to our benefit to see that the basic needs of

our children and people are met," Christopher said.

What are your organization's greatest needs? Help bringing our programs to youth who can benefit. Professionals are needed to mentor the students. Funding, so we can establish a building location and an area to provide extra support for youth with disabilities.

What do you envision for your organization? We are working with experts to create content to explore how to resolve conflict and benefit our families and communities. We are in the process of formulating a video series on how everyday people built a nation.

JC Scholarly will host its annual spring Music & Science Festival at the **Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant** from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 26. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on the group's website, jcscholarly.org. Roxanne De La Rosa covers the nonprofit community. Reach her at rdelarosa@azcentral.com.

The Specialized Cactus Cup Kicks Off Mountain Bike Racing In 2022

Published March 5, 2022
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Three-day stage race features top professionals and family-friendly events

Since 1991, Arizona's legendary **Cactus Cup** has been a must-do early season event for professional and amateur athletes.



This female-owned mountain bike festival features world-class competition in a fun, inclusive environment with activities for mountain bikers of all ages and ability levels—including children.

“The Cactus Cup is a can’t miss event! I make it a priority each year because the vibe is so fun and relaxed, yet the field is full of fast competition. I usually bring my daughter to this event because it’s family-friendly, and the kids have the opportunity to race and be involved,” said five-time Marathon Mountain Bike National Champion and two-time Leadville 100 winner, Rose Grant.

For 2022, festivities kick off at McDowell Mountain Regional Park on Friday, March 11, and run through Sunday, March 13.

The three-day stage race includes a mountain bike time trial, a 40-mile cross-country race, and an XC-focused enduro. These race categories sold out in record time, but there are still opportunities for participation in the gran fondo, family ride, kids race, and bike demos.

As a family-friendly event, the Cactus Cup features a kids’ camp that lets parents race the 40-mile XC event. (Or head out for a run or ride.) Way better than daycare, this five-hour kids’ camp will help young riders build skills, confidence and make new friends.

In addition to riding and racing, event highlights include food trucks, a beer garden, live music, an industry expo, and a pop-up museum with memorabilia from the early years of the event.

“The Specialized Cactus Cup is a one-stop mountain bike racing weekend. With something for every age and ability, everyone can enjoy

this iconic event. Mountain bike enthusiasts can rub elbows with internationally recognized pros like Ned Overend and Keegan Swenson. Spectators can watch their kids race, listen to live music, and have a beer all while checking out the latest from Specialized and other industry leaders in an up-close setting,” said Cactus Cup promoter Sage Melley.

Arizona wildflowers 2022: Here's where to see the best blooms all spring and summer

Roger Naylor
Special for The Republic



Despite a series of delicious storms at the end of December, winter moisture largely fizzled across the desert. That bodes poorly for the spring wildflower season in metro Phoenix. Don’t expect an abundance of colors. Forecasts for wildflowers range from fair to underwhelming.

Perennials like brittlebush, globemallow, desert marigold and paintbrush should still be found along trails and roads. Perennials need just moisture enough to create blossoms on an existing plant.

But poppies, those golden divas of superbloom years, will be scarce. Annuals like poppies and owl’s clover require considerably more rain because they must generate an entire plant from seed.

This also seems like a good time to point out the fact that spring is just

the beginning for Arizona’s wildflower season.

As the weather warms, blooms begin to decorate the higher elevations. That goes on all through the summer, with a big second act following monsoon storms, and continues into fall. Arizona has one of the longest wildflower seasons in the nation. You just have to get out and search. What a wonderful excuse for a colorful road trip. Start making your plans now.

Where to see spring flowers in Arizona

You’ll find a smattering of flowers in parks and trails all across the desert enveloping metro Phoenix. So head outdoors and visit some of your old favorite spots or explore some new areas. If you find only a few dozen flowers instead of thousands, remember this: At least you didn’t spend the day shoveling snow.

Desert Botanical Garden: You can bet on a sure thing bloom-wise at Desert Botanical Garden, a living, breathing, well-tended outdoor oasis. The Harriet K. Maxwell Desert Wildflower Loop Trail circles past irrigated beds overflowing with poppies, penstemon, owl’s clover, bee bush, desert milkweed and more. Keep an eye peeled for the resident hummingbirds to add an additional splash of color and movement to the festivities. Guests must purchase tickets in advance online.

Details: 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix. \$24.95-\$39.95. 480-941-1225, <https://dbg.org>.

Chihuly in the garden: [Glass artist talks about his love of the desert, new exhibits](#)





Boyce Thompson

Arboretum: Arizona’s oldest and largest botanical garden was created to study drought-tolerant plants from around the world. But just because they study drought doesn’t mean they practice it. Their flowers get some extra love from a water hose when needed. Guided walks are offered on a regular basis. The arboretum’s popular Spring Plant Sale is March 12-27.

Details: 55 miles east of central Phoenix on U.S. 60. \$15, \$5 for ages 5-12. 520-689-2723, <https://btarboretum.org>.

AZ Poppy Fest: If you’ve longed for the little satin faces of poppies, one of your best chances of seeing them in clusters is in Miami and Globe. Poppies grow along the sides of U.S. 60, in the median and fill vacant lots. In the 1940s, a local women’s club gave away packets of poppy seeds as a beautification project, and the community still reaps the benefits. Don’t miss the second annual AZ Poppy Fest April 1-3 with vendors, live entertainment, educational activities and hopefully lots of golden flowers.

Details: Find the complete schedule and locations at <https://www.azpoppyfest.com>. Arizona wildflowers: [Here's what to look for when the Sonoran Desert blooms](#)

Sedona: The Verde Valley received a couple of winter rainfalls that didn’t make it to the low desert. The wildflower season for red rock country generally runs from March through May, with blooms peaking in April.

In west Sedona, the Roundabout Trail makes a short easy loop through juniper woodlands that features plump bouquets of blackfoot daisies, Gooding’s verbena and the neon blooms of hedgehog cactus.



Close to Oak Creek Canyon, Huckaby Trail climbs to a low ridge before dropping down to the creek. Along the way, watch for beardlip penstemon, desert marigolds, Gooding’s verbena and tall pink Palmer’s penstemon waving in the breeze.

Wilson Canyon Trail enters a sandstone gorge where you might spot point leaf manzanita, banana yucca, bladderpod, paintbrush and golden-beard penstemon. The small claret cup cactus throws open clusters of its eye-catching red-orange blooms.

Where to see summer flowers in Arizona

Flagstaff: Along with those intoxicating temperatures that lure so many desert dwellers, Flagstaff rolls out a welcome mat of wildflowers. One primo viewing spot provides the quintessential Flagstaff panorama. Just off of U.S. 180 north of the city, a grassy field explodes with a sunburst of sunflowers prompted by monsoon storms.

Golden meadows framed by the rising bulk of the San Francisco Peaks provide a defining image of a summer day in Flag. The Fort Valley flower field is at the intersection of Schultz Pass Road and U.S. 180. Sunflowers appear in late July with color peaking in mid-August.



Perched atop a mesa not far from downtown Flag, Buffalo Park features an easy loop trail through big meadows with expansive mountain views. Among the tall leggy sunflowers, look for thistle, globemallow and fleabane.

Other good viewing spots include Aspen Corner along the Snowbowl Road, the Inner Basin Trail and the meadows around Mormon Lake.



The Arboretum at Flagstaff is what the backyard of our dreams looks like. Native plants flow from one garden to another beneath a canopy of ponderosa pines. Visitors can follow winding gravel paths at their leisure or take a guided tour to gain more insight into the lush flora spread across the arboretum’s 200 acres.

Details: 4001 Woody Mountain Road, Flagstaff. Opens for the season on May 1. Hours and admission fees to be announced. 928-774-1442, <https://thearb.org>.



Grand Canyon’s North Rim: You’ll likely enjoy plenty of roadside wildflowers just making the long drive to the Grand Canyon’s North Rim perched atop the lonely Kaibab Plateau. Once you’re in the park, be sure to hike the Widforss Trail.



Named for Gunnar Widforss, who lived and painted at the canyon nearly a century ago, the trail rambles through shaggy woods dropping in and out of moist drainages where you might find a carpet of lupines. Other blooms include golden-beard penstemon, Indian paintbrush, yarrow and goldeneye. The North Rim opens for the season on May 15.

Details: \$35 per vehicle, good for seven days. 928-638-7888, <https://www.nps.gov/grca>.



Mogollon Rim and White Mountains: East of Payson, the Horton Creek Trail chases a silver-tongued stream spilling down the slopes to the base of the rim. The showy yellow flowers of Hooker's evening primrose brighten up the forest. Scarlet gaura, wild geranium and brown-eyed Susan join in the festivities, and tall columbines bloom close to the water.

Woodland Lake Park is the lush heart of Pinetop-Lakeside. The 583-acre park is spread across meadows and pine forests, with a gentle paved path circling a small lake. Summer brings out the yellow hues with goldeneye, coreopsis, sunflowers and mullein, among the many blooms filling the park.

The West Baldy Trail near Greer climbs through high country timber. But that's the second half of the hike. It starts out crossing alpine meadows sprinkled with yarrow, asters, cinquefoil, and skyrocket gilia while following the West Fork of the Little Colorado River into the forest.

Desert Defenders

If you would like to spend some time this spring making the desert a safer and lovelier place, sign up for a Desert Defenders event at a **Maricopa County Park**.

Desert Defenders is a collaborative citizen science project seeking to map and remove invasive species. These desert invaders are a major threat to healthy ecosystems. They often crowd out native plants, decrease biodiversity and increase wildfire risk.

Maricopa County Parks will conduct removal events in March and April at **Cave Creek Regional Park, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area and White Tank Mountain Regional Park**. Registration is required. Sign up at www.maricopacountyparks.net/about-us/natural-resource-programs.

Visit The Friendliest Town In Arizona The Next Time You Need A Pick-Me-Up

Only in Your State
Posted in [Arizona](#) February 17, 2022 by [Katie Lawrence](#)

Need to shake off some stress? We can't imagine a better place to unwind than Carefree, a charming small town in Arizona. Boasting a quaint town square and surrounded by natural beauty, this lovely little town certainly lives up to its name.

During these uncertain times, please keep safety in mind and consider adding destinations to your bucket list to visit at a later date.

With a motto like "The Best Small Town in Arizona," Carefree has a lot to live up to - and it doesn't disappoint.



[Facebook/Town of Carefree](#)

This tiny town of just under 3,400 is a mere 30 miles north of Phoenix, but life moves at a much slower pace here.

Carefree is best known for its impressive sundial, which is the third-largest in the Western Hemisphere.



[Visit Carefree](#)

The sundial was built in 1959, and has been located in the Carefree Desert Gardens ever since.

The four-acre garden is one of only two botanical gardens in the Greater Phoenix area and features self-guided walking tours through both native and exotic plant life.



[Google/Thelma Brinson](#)

You'll find the gardens on Easy Street, one of the most walkable



thoroughfares in town. The best part? Admission is free!

Community togetherness is, quite possibly, the most incredible thing about Carefree.



Facebook/Town of Carefree

The streets are always bustling with activity, and the joyous sound of laughter from locals and tourists alike fills the air. Plus, there's always something going on, be it an outdoor yoga class or farmers market.

If you're looking to do a little shopping, there's no place quite like the Historic Spanish Village.



Flickr/marada

This picturesque destination boasts everything from quaint coffee shops to charming boutiques to distinguished art galleries.

The village was among the first properties constructed in Carefree, dating to 1969.



Historic Spanish Village

An enclave for all things arts and culture, the shopping district is aptly nestled along the fanciful Ho Hum Road. You'll find everything you want and need here - and have a great time doing it.

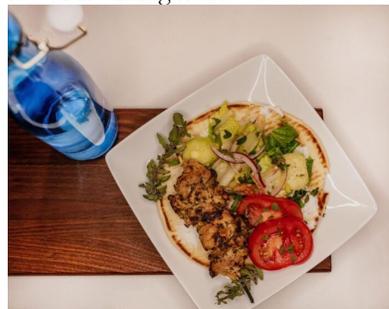
When your stomach starts to rumble, there are plenty of delicious restaurants to choose from.



Facebook/Town of Carefree

One such place is [Athens on Easy Street](#), a modern Mediterranean locale with an extensive, Greek-inspired menu.

From gyros to homemade hummus to authentic Greek wine, everything is worth writing home about.



Facebook/Town of Carefree

Plus, they have outdoor seating on a dog-friendly patio!

Just outside of town in Cave Creek lies [Cave Creek Regional Park](#), an idyllic spot for a quick hike.



TripAdvisor/Sandy D

Spanning nearly 3,000 acres, this rugged desert oasis has a variety of multi-use trails for all skill levels. There's also a picnic area and campground, so your adventure can last as long as you'd like it to.

Please note: Athens on Easy Street is temporarily closed for renovations. Visit the Carefree tourism [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) to learn more.

Have you ever been to Carefree? If so, what's your favorite thing to do there? Tell us in the comments! For another charming small town in Arizona, check out our [previous article featuring beautiful Bisbee](#).

2 Killed in Lake Pleasant Canoe Rollover Were Brothers

Authorities say two people who died from hypothermia after their canoe rolled over in [Lake Pleasant](#) were brothers.

By [Associated Press](#)
Feb. 17, 2022

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Authorities say two people who died from hypothermia after their canoe rolled over in Lake Pleasant were brothers.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office identified 22-year-old Arimus



Nazareth and 14-year-old Apolo Nazareth as the two fatalities in the weekend incident.

Deputies were dispatched around 10 a.m. Saturday to the south area of the lake near the Waddell Dam.

They said three people were inside the canoe when it rolled over. The brothers were pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities originally reported they had drowned but later determined hypothermia was the cause.

The third person was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to authorities.

Lake Pleasant is a popular destination for fishing, boating, camping and water sports. Investigators say it was windy enough that the canoe could have capsized.

Family members have started a GoFundMe page to pay for funeral services. It has raised more than \$14,000 as of Thursday.

Close friends in the Peoria area say younger brother Apolo looked to his older brother as a hero and role model. Arimus Nazareth, meanwhile, was engaged to be married.

2 brothers died from hypothermia after canoe rolled in Lake Pleasant

Feb 18, 2022, 3:00 PM
KTAR



(Facebook File Photo/Lake Pleasant Regional Park)

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Man, 14-year-old boy die of hypothermia after canoe tips at Lake Pleasant

[Haleigh Kochanski](#)
Arizona Republic
February 15, 2022



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office says the **two people who died in a canoe accident Saturday morning** died of hypothermia.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a drowning call at approximately 9:10 a.m. to an area near the Waddell Dam at Lake Pleasant.

When they arrived on the scene, deputies discovered that three people were in a canoe that had overturned in the water. Two of the patients were pronounced dead on the scene and the third was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

One of the victims was a 14-year-old boy, and the other was identified as 22-year-old Arimus Nazareth.

"The victims did not drown," said Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in a statement. "They succumbed from complications of hypothermia due to the immersion in the cold water."

Reach breaking news reporter
Haleigh Kochanski
at hkochanski@arizonarepublic.com
or on Twitter [@HaleighKochans](https://twitter.com/HaleighKochans).

MCSO: 2 dead from hypothermia after canoe accident on Lake Pleasant

By [AZFamily Digital News Staff](#)
Published: Feb. 12, 2022 at 5:54 PM MST | Updated: Feb. 13, 2022 at 2:42 PM MST



(Arizona's Family 3TV/CBS 5)

LAKE PLEASANT, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) – Two people died when their canoe rolled over on **Lake Pleasant** Saturday morning. It happened shortly before 10 a.m. near the Waddell Dam. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said a third person was in the canoe at the time. That person's injuries are not life-threatening, according to MCSO Sgt. Calbert Gillett.

Authorities originally called it drowning but on Saturday said that the victims died from complications of hypothermia. MCSO says the victims were 22-year-old Arimus Nazareth and a 14-year-old boy. The sheriff's office won't release the name of the 14-year-old because he is a minor. Detectives are still working to learn what caused the canoe to turn over. It's also not clear if the people in the canoe were wearing life jackets.

Lake Pleasant, a popular destination for boating, fishing, water sports, and camping, is a little less than an hour north of Phoenix.

2 die from hypothermia after canoe overturns in Lake Pleasant: MCSO

Two men die from hypothermia after canoe turns over at Lake Pleasant
By [Irene Snyder](#) and [FOX 10 Staff](#)
Published February 12, 2022
Updated February 14, 2022

PEORIA, Ariz. - The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office says two people died in a canoe accident in **Lake Pleasant** on Saturday morning.

Deputies were called to an area near **Waddell Dam** just past 9 a.m. on Feb 12 on a drowning call.

They discovered that three men were on a canoe when it flipped over. All three of them were found, but two of them were dead. The third victim was hospitalized but is expected to survive.

22-year-old Arimus Nazareth and a 14-year-old male died in the incident. MCSO says they died from complications of hypothermia from being in the cold water.

Other boaters on the lake said Saturday was very windy. "This morning, we were coming out here because our friends are camping out here, dry camping, and we saw all the firetrucks and ambulance and police and sheriffs coming out. They went out on the dam ... we figured something bad had to have happened," said Adina Werner of Surprise.

Josh Beadle, who was at the lake Saturday afternoon explains how he makes sure he and loved ones have a safe time on the lake.

"I just think it's inexperience – experience level. When you go out there, you should definitely look out, see if there are white caps. I kind of lookout and see what's going on. If there's big boats, maybe I won't go out that day, but you gotta do your safety checks, make sure your lights are all working so when it gets dark, you're properly seen out there. Just unfortunate, unfortunate what happened," Beadle said, in part.

MCSO is investigating the incident.



Scene of a drowning investigation at Lake Pleasant
2 dead, 1 hurt after canoe overturns in Lake Pleasant: MCSO

Mesa Marathon 2022: Start time, course map, live stream, more for Phoenix race

The Mesa Marathon returns after COVID-19 canceled the 2021 race. We break down how to watch, what the course looks like, and all the details you need.

By [David Fucillo@davidfucillo.com](mailto:David.Fucillo@davidfucillo.com) Feb 11, 2022, 7:25am PST



Benjamin Chambers/The Republic via Imagn Content Services, LLC

The Mesa Marathon in Phoenix, Arizona is back on Saturday after COVID-19 resulted in its cancellation last year. This will be the 10th annual race and it serves as a qualifying event for the [Boston Marathon](#). Organizers expect approximately 7,500 participants.

Start time

The race gets started at 6:30 a.m. local time, which is 8:30 p.m. ET.

How to watch

Local TV stations will have coverage, but otherwise you will need to hand down to the course to enjoy the event.

Prize money

The top three in both the men’s and women’s divisions earn prize money. First place wins \$1,700, second place wins \$750, and third place wins \$300.

Course map

The race gets near **Usery Mountain Regional Park**, below the large white Phoenix sign on the mountain. It ends in the Mesa Riverview shopping plaza. The race features nearly 1,000 feet of elevation loss from start to finish. It starts at 2,064 feet and finishes at 1,199 feet. The only climb comes during mile 5, with approximately 180 feet of elevation gain.

Here is a look at the [complete course map](#). The full list of turns during the course are as follows:

- Begin south on N. Usery Pass Rd.
- Right at McDowell Rd.
- Right at N. Ridgecrest
- Continue on N. Ridgecrest
- Veer Left onto E. Eagle Crest Dr. (N. Ridgecrest becomes E. Eagle Crest Dr.)
- Right at N. Power Rd.
- Left at E. Redmont Dr.
- Left at N. Recker Rd.
- Right at E. McDowell Road
- Left at N. Val Vista Dr.
- Right at E. Brown Rd.
- Left at N. Mesa Dr.
- Right at E. 1st St.
- Right at N. Robson
- Right at W. University
- Left at N. Center St.
- Left at W. Brown Rd.
- Veer Left onto N. Date (W. Brown Rd. becomes N. Date)
- Right at W. Rio Salado Pkwy

- Right at N. Alma School Rd.
- Left at Bass Pro Dr. to finish

Who won the last race?

Ben Bruce won the men’s race in 2020 with a time of 2:21:09. He finished 1:10 ahead of second place Zachary Holtkamp (2:22:29). Jaydn Asay finished third with a time of 2:22:35. Sarah Bishop won the women’s race with a time of 2:39:59. Brianna Troksa finished second with a time of 2:41:37 and Kassi Harmon finished third with a time of 2:41:54.

The Specialized Cactus Cup Kicks Off Mountain Bike Racing In 2022

February 10, 2022



Three-day stage race features top professionals and family-friendly events

/ENDURANCE SPORTSWIRE/ – Since 1991, Arizona’s legendary [Cactus Cup](#) has been a must-do early season event for professional and amateur athletes.

This female-owned mountain bike festival features world-class competition in a fun, inclusive environment with activities for mountain bikers of all ages and ability levels—including children.

“The Cactus Cup is a can’t miss event! I make it a priority each year because the vibe is so fun and relaxed, yet the field is full of fast competition. I usually bring my daughter to this event because it’s



family-friendly, and the kids have the opportunity to race and be involved,” said five-time Marathon Mountain Bike National Champion and two-time Leadville 100 winner, Rose Grant.

For 2022, festivities kick off at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park** on Friday, March 11, and run through Sunday, March 13.

The three-day stage race includes a mountain bike time trial, a 40-mile cross-country race, and an XC-focused enduro. These race categories sold out in record time, but there are still opportunities for participation in the fondo, family ride, kids race, and bike demos.

As a family-friendly event, the Cactus Cup features a kids’ camp that lets parents race the 40-mile XC event. (Or head out for a run or ride.) Way better than daycare, this five-hour kids’ camp will help young riders build skills, confidence and make new friends.

In addition to riding and racing, event highlights include food trucks, a beer garden, live music, an industry expo, and a pop-up museum with memorabilia from the early years of the event.

“The Specialized Cactus Cup is a one-stop mountain bike racing weekend. With something for every age and ability, everyone can enjoy this iconic event. Mountain bike enthusiasts can rub elbows with internationally recognized pros like Ned Overend and Keegan Swenson. Spectators can watch their kids race, listen to live music, and have a beer all while checking out the latest from Specialized and other industry leaders in an up-close setting,” said Cactus Cup promoter Sage Melley.

Opinion: Peoria numbers show positive direction

By Bridget Binsbacher, Peoria Councilmember / Peoria Mayoral Candidate
Feb 7, 2022



From the countless years of Little League and school sports for my kids to my service to the Cactus League and the Peoria Diamond Club before that, baseball has been a big part of my life for many years.

Not only is it “America’s Pastime,” but it is also the original sport where numbers matter.

Even before this era of modern analytics and “moneyball,” generations of fans spoke in hushed tones about batting averages, home runs, strikeouts and other important numbers.

People kept score on their own, and stadiums tracked most games around the league in real time. Maybe that’s why records and rankings really seem to matter so much in baseball. Perhaps, also, it’s why Peoria’s records and rankings mean so much to me and why I want to run for mayor to rack up even more wins for our city.

When you look at our city by the numbers, you find a community that is definitely heading in the right direction. Peoria scores high in both national and local rankings, and when you take in our track record, it comes as no surprise Peoria was

named No. 1 City to Live, Work and Play in Arizona (Ranking Arizona, 2021) and No. 1 Best City to Live in Arizona and the 29th in the country by Money Magazine (2018). For the stat-minded, that’s literally one in a million.

The numbers show that Peoria is a safe community. We have a mayor and council who work well together and a proven track record of commitment to public safety.

Our hard work has paid off with Peoria being named in the Top 15 Safest Cities in the United States (Wallethub, 2019 and 2017) and 22nd Safest City in the United States (Phoenix Business Journal, 2018).

Not satisfied to rest on our past success, the council also recently voted to invest even more money into police officers and firefighters to ensure our first responders can be there when you need them most.

We are also hitting home runs when it comes to attracting jobs and economic opportunities. The city was ranked Fourth-Best Place to Get a Job (WalletHub, 2018) and the No. 1 city with booming employment growth (CNBC, 2017). The proof is in job numbers as well. Peoria’s labor force commuting to jobs in other cities is down to 69% from nearly 90% just a few years ago. Our city also remains a top tourist destination, racking up recognition as Best Winter Destination in the United States (Expedia, 2017) as well as a Top 10 Unique Destination (USA Today, 2019).

Peoria also offers outstanding choices for those of all ages and abilities who live in our city. Certainly, our active adult population can agree with Forbes, who ranked Peoria in the Top 25 Places to Retire in the Country (2017). The city has also scored top 10 Best City to Raise a Family (2017) and Top 5



Disability-Friendly Cities in the United States (2016) by WalletHub.

In the 180 square miles where Peoria resides, it houses Lake Pleasant, more than 30 parks, 20 miles of trails, the Seattle Mariners’ and San Diego Padres’ Spring Training complex, and a historic downtown, and it’s home to a lively entertainment district. [Rent.com](#) has also taken notice of the staggering number of parks, trails, **Lake Pleasant Regional Park** and multiple mountain preserves, and ranked Peoria No. 7 on the list of cities with the most open space; the city also scored as the 12th Highest City for Green Space in the United States (2019).

However, the most important number I care about is “One Peoria.” My vision as mayor would be to see our city as a single community who can come together to build a stronger place to live, work, and enjoy an active lifestyle. We cannot and should not be pitting parts of the city against one another or creating divisions along regional, economic, social or other lines. We have come too far and worked too hard to erase our good work by those who want to foster discord and division. As I said before, our city is heading in the right direction and the numbers don’t lie. I am running for mayor to build on what has been done in the past by excellent leaders like mayors Keegan, Barrett and Carlat, and to take Peoria to the next level.

If we focus on “One Peoria” — one community — we will continue our domination of countless rankings lists. Every part of our city is All-Star-worthy, and that makes for one spectacular team.

This Week In Running: February 7, 2022

This Week In Running’s trail and ultra recap for February 7, 2022. By [Justin Mock](#) on February 7, 2022 | [9 Comments](#) | [irunfar.com](#)

Skyrunning in February? Yep, it’s true, thanks to the new SkySnow class of events. It’s Monday again and we’re looking at that cold-weather run in Spain, a handful of races around the U.S., and anticipating next weekend’s blockbuster Black Canyon 100k.

SkySnow World Championships – Granada, Spain
SkySnow, a new Skyrunning discipline, celebrated its first world championship races. There were Vertical and Classic distances — both featuring runners using traction devices and poles — and 15 nations took part. The venue typically hosts the Spanish Snow Running Championships.

Vertical
Saturday’s Vertical race went 950 meters (3,100 feet) up over 4k in distance and, of course, on snow. Luca Del Pero (Italy) earned the event’s inaugural gold medal, summing the high-altitude run in 39:37. Multiple Italian runners dominated the men’s front group for much of the race, but Vitalii Chernov (Russia) sprinted through the Italian countrymen toward a second-place 39:41. Lorenzo Rota (Italy) was immediately behind in 39:42 for third. Mike Popejoy was ninth in 41:31 for the US.

Women’s winner Lina El Kott (Sweden) was out front in 46:31, and second-place Silvia Lara (Spain) followed just behind in 46:45, and Virginia Perez (Spain) was third in 48:09.



Fabiola Conti of Italy makes her way up during the Vertical SkySnow race. Conti finished in eighth place for the women. Photo: Skyrunning Classic
The next day’s Classic race had just about the same amount of vertical gain, but stretched over 12k in distance. The race started at dusk in poor visibility.

Luca Del Pero doubled back with another gold-medal run, and Popejoy improved on his day prior with a second-place finish. Both finished in 1:06 but with Del Pero seven seconds ahead after a back-and-forth race. Aleksei Pagnuev (Russia) was third in 1:07, himself less than a minute back.

Del Pero earned the combined win, too, and took a fourth gold medal in leading Italy to victory in the team competition. Virginia Perez (Spain) grabbed the women’s long-course win in 1:18, just less than a minute ahead of Joana Soares (Portugal) and Sanna El Kott (Sweden). The two chasers finished in 1:19 and 1:20, respectively.

[Full results \(when available\).](#)

Additional Races and Runs

- Golden Gate Winter 50k – Rodeo Beach, California
- Travis Gibson and Tiffany Eicholz won the Coastal Trail Runs race with 4:44 and 5:51 finish times. [Full results.](#)
- Sean O’Brien 100k – Malibu, California - Official



results haven't yet hit the web, but social media shares that Jeff Browning and Jesse Haynes advanced through the men's field in the race's second half and had a friendly duel toward a close finish with Browning just in front for the win. Leave a comment to share how the women's race shook out, thanks! [Full results \(when available\)](#).

- Jed Smith 50k – Sacramento, California - It was the 44th year for this flat-and-fast group of races. Over the 50-mile distance, Brandon Costa and Beverley Anderson-Abbs won in 6:33 and 6:37. Jonah Backstrom and Britta Bookser won the 50k in 3:18 and 5:02. [Full results](#).
- Ordnance 100k – Salinas, California - The Inside Trail Racing course traversed the Fort Ord Trails with Alexander Kramer and Meghan Purdy out front in 10:15 and 11:46. Matt Ward and Emily Motz won the accompanying 50k in 4:17 and 5:00. [Full results](#).
- Bristow Trail Run 50k – Dexter, Oregon - Named for its Elijah Bristow State Park course, this 50k, run on a five-mile loop, crowned Matt Peharda and Shannon Black as its winners in 3:57 and 4:42. [Full results](#).
- Elephant Mountain 50 Mile – Cave Creek Arizona - Aravaipa Running's latest event happened at the **Cave Creek Regional Park**. Ryan Behunin and Genia McKnight did 50 miles in 8:18 and 11:05, and 50k

leaders Ruairi Moynihan and Abby Hotaling won in 4:11 and 5:07. [Full results](#).



A runner makes her way through the Elephant Mountain course in Cave Creek, Arizona. Photo: Aravaipa Running

- Running Up For Air – Utah - There were Running Up For Air races in both Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah. The events are part of an effort toward improved air quality, and though not necessarily competitive, the events do attract competitive runners.

Let's start with Salt Lake City. Twenty-four-hour winners Brian Culmo and Justine Hewitt did 13 and 11 laps up Grandeur Peak. The 12-hour winners Bryan Kerl and Courtney Dauwalter totaled eight and seven trips, and six-hour leaders Grant Barnette and Leah Yingling made it four times around.

And then in Ogden, Reid Woolsey and Karen Bishop did 12 and seven laps over 24 hours, and Andrea Christenson and Royce Hampton made it nine and eight times around over 12 hours. Six-hour winners Ryan

Montgomery and Jane Maus totaled five and four laps, respectively. [Full results](#).

- Rocky Raccoon 100 Mile – Huntsville, Texas
- Robert Landauer and Nicole Laughton won the 100-mile race in 14:50 and 17:47, and Terry Palmer and Sheila Cook were out front in the 100k in 8:37 and 11:27. [Full results](#).
- Frozen 50k – Cassadega, New York
- Michael Cammarata and Francine Barchett led the cold-weather 50k in 4:50 and 4:59, respectively. [Full results](#).
- Mill Stone 50k – Fort Mill, South Carolina - The Mill Stone 50k runs as three 10.5-mile singletrack loops. Race winners were Mark Rebbholz and Amanda Reynolds in 4:23 and 4:59. It was Reynolds's fifth win at the event. [Full results](#).
- Forgotten Florida 100 and 45-Mile – Christmas, Florida -
- The second-year Run Bum event added a 100-mile race to last year's 45-mile option. Three runners — Aden St. Charles, Maxwell Bennett, and John Parker — finished hand in hand and with headlamps aglow at the front of the 100-mile race. The three dipped under the 20-hour mark with 19:59.56 unofficially. The 45-mile winners Charles Keeling and Julie Kenney came through in 6:26 and 8:08. [Full results \(when available\)](#).
- Next Weekend – Black Canyon 100k – Mayer,



Arizona - Aravaipa Running's Black Canyon 100k is another Golden Ticket race with three automatic entries going up for the Western States 100. It is the second-to-last Golden Ticket race for the year too, and both the men's and women's races look compelling.

Men

- Jackson Brill – 1st 2021 Quad Rock 50 Mile
- Elliott Cardin (Canada) – 2nd 2020 Ultra-Trail Harricana 125k
- Preston Cates – 2nd 2021 Lake Sonoma 50 Mile
- Reid Coolsaet (Canada) – 1st 2021 Quebec Mega Trail 110k
- Anthony Costales – 1st 2021 Canyons 100k
- Justin Grunewald – 1st 2021 Golden Gate Trail Classic 50k
- Jared Hazen – 2nd 2019 Western States 100
- Jacob Jackson – 13:59 at 2021 Desert Solstice 100 Mile
- Eric LiPuma – 3rd 2021 JFK 50 Mile
- Adrian MacDonald – 1st 2021 Leadville Trail 100 Mile
- Seth Ruhling – 1st 2021 Broken Arrow Skyrace 52k
- Brian Whitfield – 5th 2021 Speedgoat 50k

Though already into the Western States 100, Reid Coolsaet is new to ultras and will be racing his most competitive ultramarathon to date. Of particular note, he's a two-time Olympic marathoner for Canada. Cates had a standout year in 2021, Costales had a breakthrough 2021, and so too did MacDonald.

Women

- Jade Belzburg – 1st 2021 Zane Gray 100k
- Addie Bracy – 1st 2021 Run Rabbit Run 100 Mile
- Lauren Coury – 1st 2019 Mt. Hood 50 Mile
- Clare Gallagher – 2nd 2021 Devil on the Divide 50k
- Salynda Heintl – 1st 2021 High Lonesome 100 Mile
- Marianne Hogan – 1st 2022 Bandera 100k
- Anne-Marie Madden (Canada) – 2nd 2020 Tarawera 102k
- Taylor Nowlin – 2nd 2021 Speedgoat 50k
- Corinne Shalvoy – 2nd 2020 Javelina 100k
- Pam Smith – 3rd 2020 Rogue Gorge 50k
- Rachel Spaulding – 1st 2021 Hellgate 100k
- YiOu Wang – 1st 2019 North Face Endurance Challenge 50 Mile
- Devon Yanko – 1st 2022 Arches Ultra 50k

While Marianne Hogan already has a Western States 100 entry, she adds competitive depth to this fascinating women's race that reads as a fun combination of established top North American runners and up-and-comers. Especially interesting entrants are the two previous Western States 100 champions: Pam Smith and Clare Gallagher.

A creek, mountains, cactus: All the best things about the Sonoran Desert are on this hike

Mare Czinar
Special for The Republic
February 5, 2022



A quick loop hike in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** north of Cave Creek yields a heart-stirring trip through canyons, saguaro-fleeced slopes and a rare desert waterway, all backed with outstanding mountain views.

The short but steadily challenging hike ties together two of the **Maricopa County Regional Park's** trails into one stunning tour of Sonoran Desert diversity.

From the trailhead, begin by hiking northwest (go right and downhill) on the Spur Cross Trail, which is also part of the Valley-circling **Maricopa Trail**. In less than a half-mile, the trail crosses Cave Creek.

Fed by storms and snowmelt, water runs sporadically through the rocky channel and is usually at its height during the winter and spring months.

A few yards past the creek crossing, continue north on Spur Cross from the Metate Trail junction. Keep an eye out for the foundations of the defunct Spur Cross dude ranch crumbling among cholla and creosote shrubs.

Over the next 0.6 mile, the route climbs easily, opening views of the creek gorge below and the flat-topped tableland of Skull Mesa and Sugarloaf Mountain to the northeast.

One mile in, pick up the Tortuga Trail. It signals the beginning of a steady ascent on a degraded dirt track that hangs on the cusp of a ravine flush with acres of saguaros, prickly pear, ocotillo and cholla that



glow in thorny halos when backlit by the sun.

The 1.1-mile uphill section is heralded by a sign warning of primitive conditions ahead. While the route is indeed rough, it's not too difficult to follow. Soon, more vistas open to the south. Look for Black Mountain, the Cave Creek Mountains, the long profile of the McDowell Mountains and singular Pinnacle Peak on the horizon.



The circuit tops out at the Elephant Mountain Trail junction where the best glimpses of the 3,926-foot massif's pachyderm profile command attention. A couple of benches mark the spot where the Tortuga Trail begins a 0.6-mile downhill trek toward the leafy cut of the Jewel of the Creek Preserve.

To finish up this loop hike, head left at the Dragonfly Trail junction and follow the Spur Cross Trail as it switchbacks through a deep gully on its way back to the trailhead.

Maricopa Trail: [If hiking the entire thing is your kind of challenge, here's how to start](#)

Spur Cross Ranch hike: Tortuga-Spur Cross loop

Length: 5.3 miles.

Rating: Moderate.

Elevation: 2,340-2,615 feet.

Getting there: 44000 N. Spur Cross Road, Cave Creek. From Loop 101 in Phoenix, take Cave Creek Road north to Spur Cross Road (on the left just as you enter the downtown area) and go 4.5 miles north to the parking area.

Admission: \$3 per person. Bring exact change.

Details: <https://www.maricopacounty-parks.net>.

Read more of Mare Czinar's hikes at <http://arizonahiking.blogspot.com>.

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This Phoenix-area hike shows off the best of the Sonoran Desert: Photos

AZCentral.com

6:00 a.m. MST Feb. 4, 2022



Sugarloaf Mountain (left) seen from the Tortuga Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.

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A crossing of Cave Creek comes early in the Spur Cross Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.

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The pachyderm profile of Elephant Mountain as seen from the Tortuga Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek. MARE CZINAR/SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC



Benches for viewing at the top of the Spur Cross-Tortuga loop hike in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.

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The Tortuga Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek is rough but not hard to follow.

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Conditions are primitive on parts of the Tortuga-Spur Cross loop hike in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.
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Skull Mesa viewed from the Tortuga Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.
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Sun-lit saguaros appear to glow on the Tortuga Trail in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek
MARE CZINAR/SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC



Routes in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek are well marked.
MARE CZINAR/SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC



Saguaros cling to slopes below the Cave Creek Mountains in **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** in Cave Creek.
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The best swimming areas near Phoenix for watersports in the desert

JANET GYENES
Lonely Planet Writer
2 FEBRUARY 2022



The desert in Phoenix offers a surprising number of beaches and water-based activities, such as stand-up paddle boarding at Bartlett Lake
© Cavan Images / Getty Images

Phoenix may be one of the USA’s hottest cities – but there are plenty of places in and around this Southwestern city to cool down with a refreshing dip.

When you’re exploring the desert, after all, any body of water feels like an oasis – including the 20ft **Arizona Falls**, a gathering place for locals in the Acadia neighborhood since the 1800s. Despite the sandy desert, sandy beaches are harder to come by in Greater Phoenix – though lakes and rivers in the region offer alluring places to swim surrounded by cactuses, catch carp in the depths and even spot wild horses while on the water.

Here are our favorite Greater Phoenix beaches, many just a short trip from downtown.



On the Upper Salt River, 2000ft granite canyon walls, wildflowers and colossal cactuses add to the otherworldly atmosphere © Kyle George / Getty Images / Aurora Open

Salt River

Although Great Phoenix’s Salt River (in the Tonto National Forest) twists through the desert for more than 200 miles, its various segments are decidedly different, depending on whether you’re looking for chill time or an adrenaline rush. Head to the Lower Salt River (in Mesa, about 40 minutes from Phoenix) for a lazy afternoon of kayaking or tubing, propelled by the gentle current. The Lower Salt is a beloved spot, where wild horses are frequently seen frolicking along the shore. Also called mustangs, these animals are believed to be descendants of horses



introduced to Arizona by a Spanish missionary in the 17th century.

To ride Class II to III white water rapids, head for the [Upper Salt River](#) (a bit farther out), where surrounding 2000ft granite canyon walls, wildflowers and colossal cactuses add to the otherworldly atmosphere. Unless you're an experienced rafter, join a guided tour. Outfitters offer half-day (or longer) excursions, leading you five to 10 miles downriver.

Canyon Lake

It's no surprise that Greater Phoenix's beaches get busy in the (very) hot summer months – yet a secluded spot can still be yours at [Canyon Lake](#), 50 miles from the city in Tonto National Forest. Steep red-rock canyon walls characterize the east end of the 950-acre lake, where you can cruise your boat in solitude and cast your line for rainbow trout and large-mouth bass. While you're waiting for the big one to bite, watch for bighorn sheep wandering by and bald eagles drifting overhead.

If you're short on time or don't want to venture out on a boat, check out the lake's dedicated recreational areas, which offer swimming spots and picnic sites.

Tempe Town Lake

If you haven't tested your balance on a stand-up paddleboard (SUP), Tempe Town Lake is an excellent place to get acquainted with the sport (or take it to the next level with a guided SUP yoga class). Located in 25-acre [Tempe Beach Park](#), a historic gathering place for Valley residents since it opened in the 1930s, the lake itself was formed in 1999 by damming a two-mile span of the Salt River. This expansive recreational playground situated in downtown Tempe lures boaters, kayakers and stand-up paddlers to its calm waters. Rent equipment on site

and expect an afternoon of easy adventure.



Water sports come with dramatic desert views at Saguaro Lake

Saguaro Lake

If hooking a 30-pound carp while surrounded by Arizona's iconic saguaro cactus framing a lake sparkling in the desert sun sounds like your thing, head to the 10-mile-long [Saguaro Lake](#), located about 45 miles from [Phoenix](#) in Tonto National Forest. There are two boat launches at this Salt River reservoir, which was created in 1930 when the Steward Mountain Dam was completed. You can even go for a swim at Sadie Beach and Pebble Beach.

Want to avoid the buzz of boats? Seek out the bay in front of the Butcher Jones Recreation Site (watch for wild horses), which features a bona fide sandy beach and is closed to motorized watercraft.



Wild horses find the Butcher Jones Recreation Site as popular as people do

Lake Pleasant

A mere 40 minutes north of Phoenix is a seemingly boundless expanse of blue water that debunks clichés about barren desert landscapes. [Lake Pleasant](#)

[Regional Park](#) encompasses an impressive 10,000 acres of water, with marinas equipped for boating activities (and rentals), including wakeboarding, water-skiing, fishing for bass and even inland scuba diving. One of Lake Pleasant's unexpected attractions is a biggie: H2 Whoa! has earned Guinness's endorsement as the World's Largest Floating Waterslide. Want to expand your beach-bound day trip? Plan ahead to snag a campsite on the shoreline.

The park itself has a long and fascinating history: between 700 and 1450 CE, the area was occupied by Indigenous peoples, with five archeological sites having been discovered so far, including two villages, a farmhouse, a stone workshop and a defensive site.

Bartlett Lake

Shoreline camping under the stars? Or cruising on a party yacht with your nineteen closest friends? You can indulge in both at [Bartlett Lake](#), 48 miles from downtown Phoenix. The diversity of this recreational spot is part of its allure. The west side is a haven for picnicking, camping, swimming, and communing (from a distance) with wildlife like coyotes and javelina. Some areas like [Rattlesnake Cove](#) are closed to motorized watercraft, but if you have a need for speed, Jet Skis can be rented at the marina, along with a two-level 45ft pontoon boat.