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Arizona Daily Star

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 | tucson.com

Abrupt end to forum on ASDB move

PRERANA SANNAPPANAVAR
Arizona Daily Star

As parents grappled with concerns that their visually- or hearing-impaired children might now be mainstreamed in public schools in local districts, rather than taught at Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, ASDB abruptly shut down a community meeting in Tucson Monday night, where questions were being shouted from the audience.

ASDB's management had given multiple

warnings to parents in the audience to stop interrupting their presentation by yelling out questions about what will happen to their children with the planned relocation to a new campus, to which it appears not all students will be moved.

"You guys should be ashamed of yourselves. You're cowards," said an audience member in the front row while walking out about an hour into the meeting.

This incited a roar of applause from the audience, which had listened to ASDB

Superintendent Annette Reichman's presentation on the school's history, funding issues, declining student enrollment, and the different campus options it looked at before selecting an elementary school in Oro Valley that Amphitheater Public Schools is closing, Copper Creek.

Several parents told the Star they had come with questions about which students won't be part of the move to Copper Creek, and whether sites that take them will still have specialized teachers

and equipment. One shared emotionally that his son is blossoming at ASDB but he worries he might be bullied in a regular public school.

Members of the school's management team had walked onto stage about three times, warning the audience to hold off on asking questions until Reichman was done with her presentation.

"I'm going to ask you again to please

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'Supercharging' ICE



YUKI IWAMURA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal officers stand outside the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building Saturday during a protest in Minneapolis.

The big tax and spending cuts bill fuels huge immigration enforcement

LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A ballooning Immigration and Customs Enforcement budget. Hiring bonuses of \$50,000. Swelling ranks of ICE officers, to 22,000, in an expanding national force bigger than most police departments in America.

President Donald Trump promised the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history, but achieving his goal wouldn't have been possible without funding from the big tax and spending cuts bill passed by Republicans in Congress, and it's fueling unprecedented immigration enforcement actions in cities like Minneapolis and beyond.

The GOP's big bill is "supercharging ICE," one budget expert said, in ways that Americans may not fully realize — and that have only just begun.

"I just don't think people have a sense of the scale," said Bobby Kogan, senior director of federal budget policy at the Center for American Progress and a former adviser to the Biden administration's Office of Management and Budget.

"We're looking at ICE in a way we've never seen before," he said.

Massive law enforcement force

As the Republican president marks the first year of his second term, the immigration enforcement and removal

operation that has been a cornerstone of his domestic and foreign policy agenda is rapidly transforming into something else — a national law enforcement presence with billions upon billions of dollars in new spending from U.S. taxpayers.

The shooting death of Renee Good in Minneapolis showed the alarming reach of the new federalized force, sparking unrelenting protests against the military-styled officers seen going door to door to find and detain immigrants. Amid the outpouring of opposition, Trump revived threats to invoke the Insurrection Act to quell the demonstrations, and

Please see **ICE**, Page A2

Arizona anti-lab-meat bill has teeth

HOWARD FISCHER
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — You can't yet buy it in stores.

But a Benson lawmaker is moving to make sure that lab-grown meat is never available in Arizona.

Not at the grocery stores. And not at restaurants.

The proposal by Republican Rep. Lupe Diaz would make it illegal to sell "cell-cultured protein for human consumption" in the state. And his HB 2791 has teeth: Violators could wind up in state prison for 18 months.

If enacted, it would appear to be the first outright ban in the country. By contrast, other states with similar laws simply deal with misrepresentation, with requirements that the products be clearly labeled as lab-grown meats.

In fact, that is what Rep. Quang Nguyen is attempting.

His HB 2672 does not prohibit the sale of any product. But it would require that anything containing lab-grown meat have a label stating "This product is derived from cultivated cells."

Diaz, however, is defending his approach.

"The way that the meat is made, I just don't trust it," he told Capitol Media Services. "It's accelerated cell growth."

And Diaz said that it's a new product that "hasn't really been proven out."

"There's a lot of cancer concerns in that because they're using enzymes



Diaz

Please see **MEAT BILL**, Page A3

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Texas Canyon Mountain Bike Race & Fun Ride
Saturday, January 24, 2026

The Amerind Museum presents the 7th Annual Texas Canyon Mountain Bike Race & Fun Ride. Saturday, January 24th, is your chance to join us for a new and improved race course that will be 50% singletrack in and around the famous boulders of Texas Canyon. Two new race options are available: a 42-mile race, a 21-mile race, a new non-competitive Fun Ride with e-bikes welcomed, and Free Little Tykes Fun Loop for kids 8 and under.

Amerind is a one-hour drive east of Tucson

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To register or for more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/TCMBR26>

Amerind Museum | 2100 N. Amerind Rd. Dragoon, AZ. | 520.586.3666 | www.amerind.org



Photo: Chris Hard