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Bessent: ‘Life is good here in Casa Grande’

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent addresses members of the media with U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and Rep. Juan Ciscomani after a tour of the Frito-Lay manufacturing plant in Casa Grande on Aug. 5. JOSEPH RONDONE/ARIZONA REPUBLIC

GOP leaders pitch sunny outlook in aggrieved AZ city

Laura Gersony  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CASA GRANDE — This city has seen better days.

Casa Grande’s biggest employer, the electric vehicle company Lucid Motors, recently laid off more than a thousand workers at its manufacturing plant in town. Unemployment in the city has steadily ticked up over the past year and a half, from around 4% to 6%.

But at an Aug. 5 news conference at the Frito-Lay manufacturing plant in town, three of the country’s top Republicans touted a more optimistic message.

“Life is good here in Casa Grande,” Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said.

The small-town visit by Bessent, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, and Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-Arizona, was part of an effort

by national Republicans to convince a seemingly pessimistic nation that the U.S. economy is on the mend.

Taking questions only from conservative-leaning news outlets, the three men sought to remind local voters about the GOP-led tax cuts enacted last year, answer concerns amid President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs and the conflict in Iran, and convince ordinary Americans to give Republicans another two years to make things better.

“2025 was like setting the table,” Johnson told reporters. “The feast and the banquet in the economy will be in 2026.”

Their optimism contrasted with the prevailing attitude among residents of Casa Grande, a city whose economic fortunes have become hitched to the country’s manufacturing sector as it becomes a local production hub.

See LEADERS, Page 5A

DUTCH BROS BUY SALAD AND GOS 3A

Tempe-based Dutch Bros is buying Salad and Go sites in Arizona and Nevada. MEGAN MENDOZA/THE REPUBLIC

ASU fall camp opens

There were no surprises as coach Kenny Dillingham’s Sun Devils hit the Kajikawa practice fields on Aug. 5 after speculation that a player or two, who were thought to have exhausted their eligibility, might show up only after a court ruling. 1B

‘Ted Lasso’ Season 4

Ted is still the salt of the earth, but the first four episodes of the show’s fourth season don’t compare to the magic of Season 1, says Bill Goodykoontz. 1C

WATER PLANNING

Arizona fights for Colorado River supply

Officials say federal 10-year plan unfairly targets state’s allocation

Brandon Loomis  
Arizona Republic  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Arizona continues pressing its case for manageable Colorado River water supply cuts over the next two years even as it protests that a new federal framework for protecting the river unfairly targets the state for unacceptable losses in the longer term.

U.S. Rep. Greg Stanton, D-Arizona, called the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s new 10-year river framework — one that allows for taking a large majority of the state’s river allocation if drought conditions worsen over the coming decade — “a total failure of leadership.” State officials remain hopeful that the agency will accept their offer of giving up a more modest 27% for at least the first two years plus voluntary conservation measures, but negotiations are ongoing.

The state’s preferred short-term plan reflects an offer it made with its Lower Basin partners in California and Nevada — the states that draw water from the troubled storage bank in Lake Mead — surrendering at least 1.6 million acre-feet of the 7.5 million

See WATER PLAN, Page 6A

Dr. Anthony Fauci is also being investigated for his conduct during the pandemic by Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Panel votes to hold Fauci in contempt over Fifth pleas

Zachary Schermele  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and

See FAUCI, Page 6A

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