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Airport to host first Prescott AirFest on Oct. 4

By PARKER JONES
The Daily Courier

The city of Prescott and the Prescott Regional Airport have announced Prescott AirFest 2025 will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 at Ernest A. Love Field.

Entry can be found at 6110 Wilkinson Drive in Prescott. This is the first ever Prescott AirFest to take place and it is planned to be an annual event going forward.

The event is free and family-friendly, inviting the community to celebrate aviation and explore one of Northern Arizona's core transportation hubs.

Visitors can expect a day full of activities, including a variety of aircraft and planes on static display for up-close viewing. There will also be a variety of military equipment displays, and service members to meet on-site.

There will also be a selection of food trucks serving lunch throughout the event.

The Prescott Fire Department and Cop-state Ambulance will also both have a hands-on "Touch-the-Truck" experience for kids and families.

"AirFest is a chance for the community to come together, experience the excitement of aviation, and see firsthand the important role the airport plays in

See AIR, page 5

Open house on Highway 89 improvements slated for Oct. 1

By PARKER JONES
The Daily Courier

The Prescott Public Works department and engineering firm Kimley-Horn will host an open house to discuss the Highway 89 utility improvement and widening project on Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The public meeting will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Center, formerly known as the Adult Center, located at 1280 E. Rosser St.

No formal presentation will be given at this meeting, but the project team will be spread around the room at various stations that relate to the project. Anyone is welcome to attend the event throughout its duration.

This meeting will allow attendees to:

- View all 20 alternatives that were considered
- Discuss the traffic study
- Learn more about rock removal
- Find out the potential construction schedules
- Discover project costs
- Leave a public comment

These stations will differ from the virtual meeting room on [sr89improvements.com](https://www.sr89improvements.com), according to Beta Public Relations representative Connor Cassens.

"This meeting will show all 20 alternatives on plan sets so we can discuss in greater detail how we got the three preferred alternatives, and have a station detailing rock removal, the traffic study,



Cars drive through the "Narrows" portion of the Granite Dells along Highway 89 on Sept. 16, 2025. (Parker Jones/Courier)

utilities, schedule and cost," Cassens wrote in an email.

There will be a dedicated station to fill out public comment forms as well.

Attending team members will include Public Works and Kimley-Horn staff, along with most of the project sub-contractors, Cassens noted. These will include experts on the utility or effluent portion, rock removal, traffic, and other project aspects.

Beta PR is the public relations firm hired by the city to help represent the

project.

As stated in a release from the city, the open house is intended to provide the community with an opportunity to learn more about the project and ask questions directly to the project team.

Based on direction from city council during a series of meetings on Aug. 26, the 60-day public comment period has been extended for an additional 30 days until Thursday, Oct. 9.

See 89, page 5

State of (Yavapai) County highlights financial health, strategic coordination

By GILLIAN 'GUS' ANDREWS
The Daily Courier

For the first time, Yavapai County held a "State of the County" event on Tuesday, Sept. 16, to give the public an overview of county planning and work serving their constituents.

Local businesses, healthcare providers, colleges, agencies, and other citizens gathered at the Findlay Toyota Center to learn about each other's services to the community, and heard from county government representatives over a lunch catered by Gabriella's Ristorante and sponsored by a number of local businesses.

The event was part of county officials' work to "ensure that the county remains accountable to constituents, [paving] the way to success through consistency and vision, good planning and good

public process," Supervisor Nikki Check said in her video for the event.

Supervisors highlighted the range of programs managed by the county, from community health services, to transportation, to water.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Check also noted the county is working on a master plan for rural services, a zoning ordinance update, and a master transportation plan for Verde Valley. She mentioned the planning the county is undertaking, including "a long range overall strategic plan" to balance related issues like development and preserving the natural environment.

"To ensure a vibrant and prosperous future,

See STATE, page 6



Attendees from the private and public sector mingled at the first Yavapai State of the County event at Findlay Toyota Center on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. (Gus Andrews/Courier)

Acorn Montessori School breaks ground on new middle school building

By ABIGAIL CELAYA
The Daily Courier

Prescott Valley's Acorn Montessori Charter School broke ground on its new middle school building on Monday, Sept. 8.

Established in 2001, Acorn Montessori originally started as a pre-K and Kindergarten school; now it serves students from Kindergarten through eighth grade as a free charter school. They blend traditional public school with the most efficient Montessori models, Principal Kendra Healey said.

Located at 8556 E. Loos Drive, the building will provide the school with additional middle school classrooms, along with a covered outdoor area where students can participate



Compliance Officer Dawn Grantham, HR and Principal Kendal Healey at the groundbreaking site for Acorn Montessori's new middle school property on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. (Abigail Celaya/Courier)

in outdoor learning activities.

The school is hopeful the project will be completed in the spring of 2026 and will allow for 20 more middle school students to enroll at Acorn for the 2026-27 school year. However, its main goal is to provide current students with better spaces.

The new building will be paid for through grants and from the money the school was able to save over the course of 10 years. The school has more

land that it could expand with in the future, once they have the financial means.

Founder and director, Cynthia Johnson, said the cost of the building will total \$800,000, which includes furnishing classrooms. She said the school is paying cash for the new construction.

"The Acorn schools are excited to expand their student capacity," Johnson said. "Acorn has a tremendous fifth — eighth-grade sports program."

Healey said the expansion will help them continue to focus on developing the whole child and make sure they are socially and emotionally well-adjusted as they grow from child to adult.

See ACORN, page 5

Today's Weather

High 87° | Low 59°
Weather, Page 2

Inside Today's Courier

Local	3	Your Health	7
Opinions.....	4	Comics.....	8
Obituaries.....	5	Features.....	9
News	6	Classifieds	10

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