

Education Forward Arizona releases new attainment report

Education and workforce go hand in hand

By ABIGAIL CELAYA
The Daily Courier



Education Forward Arizona has released a new state-wide report titled “The Future of Attainment in Arizona,” which emphasizes the importance of post-secondary education in relation to the state’s future economy and workforce.

The report focuses on the Achieve60AZ goal, which is an effort that works to ensure 60% of adults ages 25-64 hold a degree, or professional credential by 2030. It also lists next steps the state needs to take to build a better education-to-workforce pipeline. Right now, the state is at 49% attainment.

Along with Achieve60AZ, the report states that nearly seven in 10 jobs in Arizona will soon require education or training beyond high school.

The report also found it is important to align education outcomes with workforce demand, especially in healthcare and semiconductor manufacturing. It emphasized the importance of skills-based hiring, competency-based education, and short-term credential programs — all

which are tools that allow Arizonans to upscale quickly into good-paying jobs.

President and CEO of Education Forward Arizona Rich Nickel said Arizona’s future prosperity depends on dramatically increasing educational attainment and creating opportunities for them.

“We’ve made meaningful progress, but now is the time to accelerate efforts by expanding access, strengthening readiness, and ensuring education and workforce systems move forward together,” Nickel said.

Locally, the Yavapai County Future Ready Council, made up of educators, administrators, business leaders and media, was put together to discuss how business leaders and educators must come together to ensure students are ready to stay in Yavapai County and join the workforce.

Steve King, Yavapai County schools superintendent, emphasized the importance of this initiative.

“There are few endeavors we can put our energies into that are more important than inspiring and preparing our youth for their role in our

nation and our economy,” King said. “I am very supportive of this direction and of those who are working so hard to increase the opportunities for our children and communities.”

Danny Brown, who is spearheading the council, said the goal of the group directly aligns with the mission of Achieve60AZ. He said their aim is to strengthen the engagement between local businesses and schools so students are aware of all the options available to them, especially at the middle school level.

“By fostering a strong focus on career exploration beginning at the middle school level, we hope to inspire students to pursue the credentials and skills necessary to enter the workforce confident, prepared, and ready to contribute,” Brown said.

Clark Tenney, superintendent of Prescott Unified School District, said the research presented by Education Forward Arizona confirms what their experience as educators tell them: Arizona’s future depends on investing in a well-educated future workforce.

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Gunshots damage vehicle in Castle Canyon Mesa area Nov. 15

A shooting damaged a vehicle in the Castle Canyon Mesa area in Prescott Valley early Saturday morning, Nov. 15. Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office (YCSO) is seeking any information related to the incident.

At around 1:48 a.m., deputies responded to reports of four to five gunshots heard near the 3300 block of Treasure Drive. Later that day, a resident in the area reported their vehicle had been hit with gunfire while it was parked in their driveway.

YCSO detectives ask residents in the Castle Canyon Mesa area, specifically those near Prescott East Highway, Sunset Lane, Antelope Drive, North Starlight Drive, and North Date Creek Drive to review home security camera footage. Video between 1:40 a.m. and 2 a.m. may show a pickup truck driving in, entering, or exiting the neighborhood.

Those with relevant information or video footage are encouraged to upload it via this link: [YavapaiCSOAZ.evidence.com/.../public/ccm_15nov2025](https://yavapaiCSOAZ.evidence.com/.../public/ccm_15nov2025). Another option is to contact YCSO at 928-771-3260 and with the reference case number 25-054815 or submit a tip anonymously by contacting Silent Witness at 1-800-932-3232.

Information provided by Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office.



Watson Lake. (Hava Herzog/Courier)

Watson Lake to undergo treatment through Nov. 21, will remain open

The City of Prescott has announced Watson Lake will undergo water quality treatment through Friday, Nov. 21.

Water treatment is part of an ongoing Public Works Department Capital Improvement Project. The treatment aims to reduce phosphorus of the lake’s bottom sediment. “This treatment helps improve water clarity, reduce organics, and reduce aquatic weeds and algae,” the City of Prescott stated in a social media post. “The treatment is safe for drinking water and aquatic life, and the lake will remain open as usual during this time.”

According to a project update from Public Works, Watson Lake Reservoir is listed as “impaired” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The reservoir suffers from high pH, low dissolved oxygen, harmful algae, and aquatic weed blooms because of excess organics in the lake, according to the update. The treatment will further neutralize the pH and reduce weeds and algae, overall improving fish habitat, lake health, and recreation opportunities.

As of this summer, the City of Prescott reported no harmful algae blooms, proof that treatments are improving water quality.

Public Works officials said the treatments will continue through 2026.

Information provided by the City of Prescott.

Yavapai Humane Society opens Serenity House, offering families peaceful place to say goodbye

By JESSE BERTEL
The Daily Courier

The Yavapai Humane Society opened the doors of Serenity House on Friday, Nov. 14, offering the community a new kind of support during one of life’s most difficult moments.

The grand-opening event at the Humane Society campus on Sundog Ranch Road welcomed visitors into the first-of-its-kind sanctuary designed to bring comfort, privacy, and dignity to families during end-of-life care.

The space includes a cozy living room with couches, soft lighting, and a fireplace, as well as



The Yavapai Humane Society’s Serenity House held a grand opening event on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025. (Courtesy)

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Kolodin’s election overhaul plan revives proof-of-citizenship fight, sets up clash with Fontes

By HOWARD FISCHER
For the Courier

PHOENIX — A Republican lawmaker who wants to be the state’s chief elections officer wants Arizona voters to have to provide documented proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections despite a federal appellate court ruling voiding a similar law.

In a new proposal, Rep. Alexander Kolodin of Scottsdale seeks to insert a provision in the Arizona Constitution to say that “only citizens” can register and vote “in any public election in Arizona.” And it spells out that early ballots are available only to those who have provided citizenship proof.



Kolodin

But there’s more.

Some of what is in HCR 2001 already is law in Arizona, such as counting only the ballots received

by the close of polls on Election Day. And anyone casting a ballot in person has to provide identification.

But the measure also would:

- disallow early voting after 7 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day to keep people from dropping off their early ballots at polling places, delaying final election results;
- require people who sign up for early voting to have to reverify their address every two years;
- outlaw all-mail elections;

tions;

- guarantee the right to vote in-person on Election Day at “conveniently located polling places,” something that is not defined.

Whatever the merits of the proposal, there is a political component.

Kolodin is running for secretary of state. And his anticipated foe is incumbent Democrat Adrian Fontes who has openly opposed much of what is in the proposals.

For more on this story, visit dCourier.com.

Today's Weather



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Vol. 144, No. 208
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