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Hot dog!: Costco food court expected to reopen around April 13 • Business, 1B

Prescott, Northern Arizona communities experience warmest March on record

By **BRODIE GREENE**
The Daily Courier

Prescott experienced the warmest March ever recorded last month, after experiencing the warmest winter on record.

Prescott has two weather stations monitored by the National Weather Service, with one located at the Prescott Regional Airport and another co-op station near the Sundog Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Last month was the warmest March on record at both stations, according to Justin Johndrow, lead meteorologist at the NWS office in Flagstaff.



A climber enjoys an unusually warm 85-degree day on Saturday, March 28, 2026. (Brodie Greene/Courier)

See **WARMEST**, page 5A



The City of Prescott has agreed to enter a \$750,000 settlement in a lawsuit against the firm that created its Airport Master Plan. The lawsuit claimed that the firm had incorrectly drawn the impact zones surrounding the airport, which resulted in the city purchasing the land for \$8 million to prevent residential development. (Brodie Greene/Courier)

Prescott settles lawsuit against firm that created Airport Master Plan

By **BRODIE GREENE**
The Daily Courier

The City of Prescott last week agreed to settle a lawsuit that spanned over two years with the consultant firm it hired to develop its Airport Master Plan, along with a Land Use Master Plan for land surrounding the city's airport.

The Prescott City Council unanimously voted to approve the settlement after a closed-door executive session at a recent council meeting. The settlement, as approved by the council, stipulates that engineering and planning firm Louis Berger Group pay the city \$750,000, according to Joseph Young, city attorney.

"The complaint was filed in the Yavapai County Superior Court and remains active, though it is now on the dismissal calendar as we filed a notice of settlement," Young said.

A settlement is not the same as an admission of wrongdoing. The city filed the first legal complaint against the firm and its parent company, WSP USA Solutions, Inc. in November 2023, but later amended it in February 2024. According to the amended complaint, the city initially sought \$6,576,800 in damages with interest and attorney fees.

The complaint alleged that the consultant had incorrectly drawn the impact zones map, making the zones smaller than standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration. Impact zones are specifically-designated areas around airports that restrict the types of compatible uses.

The complaint alleged that, based on the perceived error, that the city, beginning in 2017, had allowed residential housing to be planned through development agreements within two impact zones on the north side of the airport, approximately 75 acres.

The city purchased that land from Chamberlain Development, LLC in January 2024 for \$8 million. The Daily Courier reported that the parcel was originally planned for residential development, but the city bought it to prevent "incompatible uses."

See **SETTLE**, page 5A

'Wheel-y' close call: Loose truck wheels crash into Paulden home

Wheels from a cement truck detached and crashed into a home in Paulden Wednesday, April 1.

Around 7:35 p.m., a resident was inside his home off Highway 89 when he reportedly heard "a loud crash" in his bedroom.

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) reported that a pair of driver-side rear wheels had detached from a commercial truck traveling north. The wheels left the roadway and reportedly crashed through the brick exterior of the home into the man's bedroom leaving a gaping hole.

The man in his mid-70s was not injured, but said he had just gotten up to use the restroom when the accident occurred. The heavy wheel assembly came to rest just feet from the bed, YCSO reported.

Deputies then searched further north along Highway 89. About 15 miles ahead, deputies stopped the cement truck. YCSO stated that the driver was unaware that the wheels had even detached. The axle remained on the truck but was missing an entire wheel assembly on one side, YCSO stated.

No injuries were reported, and information and insurance documentation was exchanged between the parties involved.



The loose truck wheel assembly went through a Paulden home exterior wall leaving a large hole. (YCSO/Courtesy)

Information provided by Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Lawmakers advance bill for nursing home monitoring cameras

By **HOWARD FISCHER**
For the Courier

PHOENIX — State lawmakers appear ready to let nursing home residents set up video cameras so someone can monitor what goes on when there's no one there live to watch.

SB 1041 would override any rules or practices in

these facilities that bar such live cameras as long as they were placed in a resident's own room. And if they are unable to consent, that right would belong to the person who has the legal right to act on the resident's behalf.

The 16-1 vote by the House Appropriations Committee last week came over the objections

of lobbyists who represent nursing homes and assisted living facilities which also would fall under the scope of the legislation. They say that such monitoring could invade the privacy of others who happened to be in the resident's room.

See **CAMERAS**, page 5A



Courier stock photo

Today's Weather

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