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Suits to be lone Prescott Justice of the Peace candidate

Judge rules challengers Lazzell, Goode fell short of valid petition signatures

By BRODIE GREENE
The Daily Courier

Doug Suits, candidate for Prescott Justice of the Peace, will be the only name on the ballot for the Republican Primary Election set for Tuesday, July 21, now that the Superior Court has determined that the only other two candidates, former Mayor Phil Goode and former Council Member Greg Lazzell, did not submit enough valid signatures on their petitions to run.

For a candidate to appear on the primary ballot, they are required to submit at least 300 signatures and no more than 330. Superior Court Judge John Napper ruled that both Lazzell and Goode did not meet this criteria in an expedited "Order to Show Cause and Trial on the Merits" decided on Thursday, April 16.

"There's clearly convincing evidence produced by Judge Suits that 25 of the signatures were not qualified, which drops Mr. Goode to 284 valid signatures, which is below the required 300 so I will enjoin his name for being placed on the ballot for the upcoming primary," Napper said.

Both Goode and Lazzell did not show up to the trial, nor did they file responses by the deadline of April 13.

"As to Mr. Lazzell's petitions, I do find that 34 of his signatures were not appropriate. So I will strike those 34 signatures, which leaves him with a total of – I do find that that was proven by clear and convincing evidence– that leaves him with 273 signatures," Napper said.

See **SUITS**, *page 5A*

Current Prescott Justice of the Peace Doug Suits will run unopposed after a judge ruled in favor of his complaint filed against the two other candidates Thursday, April 16, 2026. The complaint argued that the petitions of former Prescott Mayor Phil Goode and former Prescott City Council Member Greg Lazzell to appear on the ballot did not have enough valid signatures. (Brodie Greene/Courier)

Prescott unveils design for new Strickland Park green stormwater infrastructure project

City staff, as well as the engineer and contractor for the Stricklin Park green stormwater project, held a community meeting unveiling the current design concept to the public for the first time on Wednesday, April 16, 2026. The project is the first of its kind for the city. (Brodie Greene/Courier)

By BRODIE GREENE
The Daily Courier

Prescott city staff unveiled the current design concept for a green stormwater infrastructure project at Stricklin Park, 1751 Sherwood Drive, to more than 20 residents gathered at the park Wednesday, April 15.

The project aims to improve the flow of water through the park, alleviating impacts to the nearby roadway and making sure that the park's plants stay healthy for years to come.

Jason Harrington, principal architect at Harrington Planning + Design, explained that Sherwood Drive, to the northwest side of the park, gets a lot of stormwater accumulation on the roadway.

"It creates black ice, which is a driver/pedestrian hazard. It degrades the road surface, which requires additional maintenance, and the water lingers on the roadway. It gets dirtier the longer it's there," Cordova said. "What we also looked at was the declining health of trees in the park, and the poor water quality in Butte Creek. And we realized we could solve the roadway water quality and tree health problems all at the same time."

Harrington said that the project will replace the existing corridor for water runoff on Sherwood Drive with one that includes a sediment trap, and add another further down the street.

"It's always going in the same direction already. We're slowing things down a little bit, capturing that water so that we can have some of these trees that are drought stressed or even dead because of lack of water, having them fortify that," Harrington said.

The goal is to redirect the stormwater runoff into a bioswale, which is like a sloped trench with seed mix planted in it. The water will then flow into two bioretention basins along the path that eventually flows out to Butte Creek.

"As it soaks into the soil, the soil has something called capillary action. That capillary action migrates the water horizontally as well as vertically, and so the perimeter areas are going to be rewarded with extra water that's not there today," Harrington said.

The project will also replace two panels of the existing walkway with an open "under-scupper," which will allow for better flow of water through the walkway than the existing PVC pipe that runs underneath, and is often clogged. The trail, as one of the only city trails compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, will remain accessible, according to Harrington.

As part of the project, between eight and 15 trees are expected to be removed,

See **GREEN**, *page 5A*

Wineglass forest health project underway on Prescott National Forest

A forest health improvement project was expected to begin Monday, April 13 on the Prescott National Forest (PNF).

The Wineglass Project is a 3,434-acre hand-thinning project between the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) and PNF.

Hand-thinning is a fire-prevention technique that involves the use of chainsaws and other tools to remove smaller trees, branches and brush.

The project will be located north of the community of Paulden within the Wineglass Tank area and north of Big Chino Road on the Chino Ranger District of PNF.

Hand-thinning is intended to improve forest health and reduce hazardous fuels, which in turn, also reduces the risk and severity of wildfire to the communities of Paulden, Chino Valley and Perkinsville. Additionally, the project will improve soil conditions and improve pronghorn habitat. The project will increase sight lines and allowing more space for grasses and plants to grow, which are an important food source for wildlife, according to DFFM.

The project is expected to take a year to complete, and will focus on the removal of weak or damaged juniper and shrub species in the area.

DFFM stated prescribed fire will later be administered as part of continual fuels management work.

The project falls under the U.S. Forest Service's Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which aims to "protect communities and critical watersheds while restoring vital habitats," DFFM stated.

DFFM stated that no forest closures are expected for this project.

— Hava Herzog, The Daily Courier

APS agrees to pause disconnections on 95-plus-degree days

By HOWARD FISCHER
For the Courier

PHOENIX — Attorney General Kris Mayes is using state consumer fraud laws to force the state's largest electric utility to stop disconnecting customers for nonpayment of their bills during the hottest days of the year.

The deal, agreed to by Arizona Public Service, prohibits it from cutting customer power when the temperature is expected to hit 95 or higher. Right now the utility

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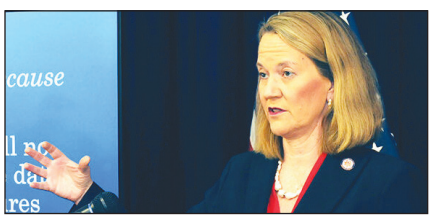

Attorney General Kris Mayes discusses Wednesday, April 15, 2026, the agreement she got with Arizona Public Service to change its policies about when it disconnects consumers due to nonpayment of bills during the summer months. (Howard Fischer, For the Courier)

Today's Weather

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Vol. 145, No. 55
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