# Wednesday, December 17, 2025 PRESCOTT VALLEY

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## Gravel pit mining will proceed at Government Tank location

West Fain Park land will be donated to the town in exchange for potential tax rebates

#### By GILLIAN 'GUS' **ANDREWS**

Prescott Valley Tribune

A new gravel mining operation is expected to proceed within Prescott Valley town boundaries after a 5-2 vote by the Town Council on Thursday, Dec. 11, and a 3-2 vote by the town's Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, Dec. 8.

The Fain Family and Asphalt Paving and Supply (AP&S) plan to mine gravel at the Government Tank site, a 40-acre parcel of land in a remote area bordering the Town of Dewey-Humboldt.

#### WHAT'S IN THE **AGREEMENT?**

The development agreement approved on Thursday states that the Fains



Dust can be seen drifting from the existing Asphalt Paving and Supply gravel mining operation, east of Fain Park, in front of the StoneRidge housing development ahead of the Prescott Valley Town Council's 5-2 vote to approve a similar new operation on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025. (Gillian "Gus" Andrews/Tribune)

mine on land west of Fain Park. That land was closer to the existing homes of and Victorian Estates developments.

The Fains will give near- in the agreement protects Freund and Janell Kiehl Zoning representatives Ted

to be annexed to the town there. by Yavapai County.

The Fain Family will hundreds of Prescott Valley retain mineral rights to residents in the StoneRidge the donated land. Town officials and Fain representatives said this clause

#### FREUND, KIEHL VOTE NO, CITING TAX REVENUE, **OTHER CONCERNS**

Councilmembers Ken to industrial. Planning and

and AP&S will mine at Gov- ly 80 acres of land west of West Fain Park, as the voted 'no' on all three relaternment Tank in exchange Fain Park to the town to add town would not be eligible ed issues on Thursday's for giving up their right to to the park. It will first need to exercise mining rights agenda: the development agreement, major change to the town's general plan, and zoning change for the Government Tank parcel, which was changed from a default residential zoning

Erb and Kaiden Grossi had also voted no on these proposals.

Kiehl explained her vote in light of a clause in the agreement that required the town to rebate taxes on all Fain properties in the town up to the value of the land donated, should the town decide to levy those taxes in the future.

The town could not know how much in equivalent taxes the town would have to pay back to the Fains because of the rebate, Kiehl said, because the value of the land in the gift had not yet been appraised. She raised a concern about the impact this could have on the town's general fund in the future.

The Fains donated much of the land that became Prescott Valley, and own many properties and businesses in the town. Commenters at both meetings objected to the tax rebate, saying the Fains stood to disproportionately benefit

'We're already going to the ballot next year to seek

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### BMX track OK'd for 5-year contract at former Wheelhouse facility

By GILLIAN 'GUS' ANDREWS Prescott Valley Tribune

To applause from an audience that was, on average, the youngest to show up to council meetings in months, Prescott Valley Town Council members unanimously approved a fiveyear license agreement for Mingus Mountain BMX to continue operating its dirt bike track at the former county fairgrounds

The agreement has Mingus Mountain BMX, which is operated by Mike Miranda, paying \$28,800 annually to rent the property. Mingus Mountain BMX was formerly known as Wheelhouse BMX. The town ended The Wheelhouse's lease of the fairgrounds property as a whole in September, but expressed interest in continuing the BMX facility's lease, as well as the lease of a radio-controlled car track and a dance studio.

Miranda touted the track's draw for the town. His BMX facility has hosted annual state qualifiers for BMX sports, as well as open meets, clinics and charity Council.



Mike Miranda, far right, and Lucky Barker, center, celebrate the Prescott Valley Town Council's approval of a five-year contract in which Miranda will continue to operate Mingus Mountain BMX at the former county fairgrounds property. (Gillian "Gus" Andrews/Tribune)

events. Mingus Mountain BMX ticipants and more than 17,000 fessional, A-class riders that live through people in their 60s. spectators a year, according to in our state and in our town," data they provided to the Town

pates in the sport with his chil-years, has proposed a motocross town. There's nothing to do."

"We have a lot of trainers that dren. Miranda noted that BMX ilies, and we all agree: We need has averaged almost 7,000 par- live here, we have a lot of pro- riders range in age from toddlers

> Barker, who said his family said Lucky Barker, who particihas lived in Prescott Valley for 50

track event center at the track, for which he said he has sourced funding and has 17 companies in support. He said the center would employ over 20 people and have safety trainings and food concessions on premises.

Barker's goal, he said, was to keep riders off of trails and ranch land. He admitted he himself had been a "desert racer" when he was younger. But riders like him, he said, "had nowhere to

Gary Johnstone, a local bartender, said in the meeting's public comment section that when his kids, who enjoy dirt bikes, ride them around Antelope Meadows, it brings complaints from his neighbors.

"We don't want people crossing rivers and creeks and onto ranches and onto land that they shouldn't be on, and eroding the dirt," Barker said.

"We all talked to young famsomething more for families to do," Johnstone said. "When I was a kid I went to the mall. I took my kids to the mall. It's like a ghost

#### House approval of Secure Rural Schools Act means relief for Yavapai County districts

**By JIM WRIGHT** Prescott Valley Tribune

can breathe a little easier depending on revenue with large areas of federafter the House of Representatives, supported by Rep. Eli Crane of Arizona's Second Congressio- this extension, which is a in order to be incorporatnal District, advanced a three-year extension of the in Arizona's Second Con-Secure Rural Schools Act gressional District." last week.

Local school districts tial services without soley sation for communities from the U.S. Forest Service," Crane's office stated. tion, is awaiting President win for every single county

The longstanding bipar- approved by the Senate, Friday. "It's important, and average is \$126,508.10.

"This guarantees fund- tisan funding mechanism with House approval com- it will help a lot of kids." ing in rural jurisdictions for rural schools have relied schools and other essen- on for 25 years as compenal land ineligible for taxa-"Rep. Crane fought hard for Donald Trump's signature ed into the national budget package.

ing last Wednesday. The ten, updated technology, funding. school security and more.

the credit in the world for an average \$110,285.30 co-sponsoring the bill," The measure had been tendent Steve King said tribution in 2024-25, the

As an overall average, efforts, full-day kindergar- in Secure Rural Schools

The Prescott Unified "I give Rep. Crane all School District has received over the past five years; not Yavapai County Superin- counting the partial con-

Humboldt School District has received bill provides much-need- Yavapai County receives an average of \$160,120.90 ed funding for literacy about \$1.3 million a year over the past five years; not counting the last partial contribution from 2024-25, the average is \$183,999.80.

Chino Valley Unified School District has received an average of 67,251.70 over the past five years; not

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#### Pets of the Week

Chestnut is among the pets up for adoption

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#### **Cooking in Prescott Valley**

Recipes for all occasions:

**Meatball Pasta Bake** 

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