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July 24 PCFYI: Preserving Pima County's past, relief for utility bills, water safety for seniors

Pima County, Arizona sent this bulletin at 07/24/2026 09:00 AM MST

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Friday, July 24, 2026 — Vol. 11, No. 14



How Pima County's Historic Preservation team keeps past alive

At the base of Sentinel Peak lies Mission Garden, one of the most historically and culturally significant sites in Southern Arizona. It sits within the ancestral Tohono O'odham village of Cuk Šon, which gave Tucson its name.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources staff, Mission Garden has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Pima County helps residents access Power AZ utility assistance



Pima County's Community Action Agency can help residents learn about and apply for the state's Power AZ utility assistance program.

The Power AZ program initially allocated \$15 million in assistance, available through Sept. 30, 2026. The program expands income eligibility beyond the traditional Low

Income Home Energy Assistance Program, allowing more households to qualify.

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Health Department campaign targets water safety for older adults

Drowning can happen at any age. For older adults, a relaxing afternoon by the pool or a soak in a hot tub can quickly become dangerous when heat, health conditions, medications, or fatigue come into play. Five drowning fatalities involving adults over the age of 50 have been reported this year. That's why the Health Department is reminding swimmers and hot tub users of all ages of the dangers of drowning and offering some simple safety guidelines to help save lives.

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Celebrate National Pickleball Day at Kino



Grab your paddles, invite some friends, and enjoy FREE open play on Aug. 8 at the 20 professional-level courts at Kino Sports Complex in honor of National Pickleball Day. Courts are available from 7 a.m. to noon and again from 5 to 10 p.m. Learn more about playing at Kino and plan your next visit.

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County protects rangelands, encourages sustainable ranching practices

Earlier this year, the United Nations declared 2026 to be the [International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists](#). Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources is encouraging everyone to learn how important rangelands and ranchers are for diverse, healthy ecosystems and local communities.

As guided by the award-winning [Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan](#), Pima County protects working landscapes on 15 ranches, encompassing more than 200,000 acres of fee and leased land. The County also partners with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to offer a hands-on ranch education program for young people at one of the County's ranches, helping to ensure the future of sustainable ranching.

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Friends of PACC covering low-cost spay/neuter surgeries



Dog owners in Pima County have a new low-cost option when it comes to spay/neuter surgeries, thanks to Friends of Pima Animal Care Center (FOP). The Friends group is the official nonprofit partner to Pima Animal Care Center, covering needs above and beyond what the shelter's budget can do.

Through various outreach programs all over the County, PACC and FOP saw the need for more affordable options when it comes to pet sterilization for medium-to-large dogs. Taking that information and looking at the shelter's ever-expanding population of medium-to-large dogs, FOP made it their mission to find a way to fill the need.

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Keeping an eye on the sky at Kino

Storms may roll in, but now Kino Sports Complex is one step ahead. Kino's new lightning detection system keeps a close eye on the skies, helping protect athletes, officials and fans with timely alerts so everyone knows when it's time to pause — and when it's safe to get back in the game.

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Catalina Community Center closed through Aug. 4



Catalina Community Center, 16562 N. Oracle Road, will be temporarily closed from Friday, July 24, through Tuesday, Aug. 4, while the facility undergoes important electrical system upgrades. Regular programs and activities will resume Wednesday, Aug. 5.

The center provides a wide array of services, including an after-school program, fitness programs for adults, a swimming pool, and a computer lab.

Help shape the future of transportation in Pima County

There's still time to help the Pima County Transportation Department develop its Master Plan. The plan will create a long-term vision for transportation and guide future investments for the next 30 years. Residents can share their comments, concerns, and local knowledge to help improve mobility throughout the region.

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