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Aug. 14 PCFYI: The County's hidden oasis, free meals for seniors, honors for Public Works projects

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Friday, Aug. 14, 2026 — Vol. 11, No. 15



Monsoon rains nourish KERP basin, County's 'urban oasis'

The late summer rains provided some extra sparkle for one of Pima County's most overlooked gems.

After this month's storms, the Kino Environmental Restoration Project (KERP) basin is full to the brim. The enormous pond uses stormwater runoff to water all 34 fields at Kino Sports Complex, providing significant savings for taxpayers and conserving precious groundwater. The project also provides habitat for native wildlife and flood protection for the neighborhood.

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Ellie Towne's senior meals program continues, thanks to donations



Thanks to a generous donation from United Healthcare, Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center will continue to offer free meals to seniors three times a week.

Applause rang out at the center on the morning of Aug. 12 as a United Healthcare representative presented the center's namesake, Ellie Towne, with a check for \$45,000.

As many as 60 seniors a week attend the program, which is open to adults ages 60 and older and provides free, nutritious meals three days a week.

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Plan ahead for the Nov. 3 General Election

It's not too early to make a plan for the 2026 General Election on Nov. 3, whether that means registering to vote, signing up for an early ballot, or finding the nearest Vote Center. Here are some steps to take now, as well as some key dates to mark on your calendar.


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Green Geek takes on Tupperware, tents and snack food bags

How long can you continue to safely use an old Tupperware container? What can you do with that old tent in your garage? Are all those junk food wrappers destined to take up space in the trash bin? The Green Geek is ready to answer your questions about all things green!



Public Works departments earn top honors for wildlife ramp, Medical Examiner's Office

It's time for two Pima County departments to clear a little more space on their trophy shelves.

The national American Public Works Association as well as its Arizona chapter have recognized Pima County's Regional Flood Control District for the Santa Cruz River Wildlife Ramp. The project has now won seven awards from state and national organizations. Meanwhile, Pima County Project Design & Construction won a trio of awards for the Office of the Medical Examiner facility.



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Health conference focuses on mental health, overdose prevention



navigate these challenges.

Mental health, drug use and the stigma surrounding both were on the agenda of the Pima County Health Department's first-ever Let's Talk About It! Teen Conference at Groundworks July 25. The event was designed to increase awareness of mental health, substance use, stigma and overdose prevention while providing teens with tools and resources to help them

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Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Historic Empire Ranch

Historic Empire Ranch celebrates its 150th anniversary this year with a special event on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The ranch, located in Las Cienegas National

Conservation Area, is a working cattle ranch that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The event will include presentations on different aspects of the ranch's history, a book signing, and a reading of this year's proclamation honoring the ranch by District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy. The event is free and open to everyone.

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Register now for El Tour de Tucson



El Tour de Tucson is fewer than 100 days away. [Register now](#) for any of the Nov. 21 tour's scenic routes for a discount. And don't forget to mark your calendar for [Sept. 26 for Loop de Loop](#). The annual event offers riders a chance to meet the folks behind the various nonprofits who benefit from cyclists' generosity. Added bonus: Pima County will reveal the newest Loop cycling jersey at Loop de Loop. Join from anywhere along The Loop, 7 a.m.-noon, or join the after party at the [Rillito Regional Park](#) race track.

Conservation Lands and Resources launches new registration site

Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources' new registration site is now live. Explore the wonders of the Sonoran Desert on a guided nature walk, wildlife watching adventure, historical tour or family night hike. Sign up for upcoming programs and plan your next camping trip at Gilbert Ray Campground at discovernature.pima.gov.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Next issue: Friday, Aug. 28, 2026

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