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July 29, 2026

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More than a cafe BELLAS bold new chapter



PHOTOS BY YVETTE VARGAS

Will James says his mom is his hero. His favorite person. The two make a strong team with Will playing the consummate front man and server and Nancy overseeing the kitchen and ever changing menu of fresh choices which defines the cafe.

The chef tells her story behind the Superior restaurant

By SONIA YANEZ

Family photos on the walls, fresh-baked goods in the display case, and a warm, sincere welcome as you walk in — all of these things make up Bellas Cafe on Main Street. Located in the heart of downtown Superior, Bellas has been under the direction of owner Nancy Marie Giordano for the past four years. Bellas is undergoing some exciting changes, with new items being added to the menu and the patio being renovated into a creative, inviting space. Giordano said the patio will have a Southwestern-Mexican vibe, with a little bit of a different menu, and a different type of music. This reservation-only patio space will open in August and feature five dishes, along with desserts offered in collaboration with a local baker.



The building which now houses the cafe has had a varied history including a theater, bar, hardware store and more in earlier lives. Nancy hopes to compile the stories in a future project.

The new menu choices are aiming more toward New York-style sandwiches, which Giordano is looking forward to. She grew up in Mount Vernon, New York, where she says, "I came from a line of really fantastic cooks." Even though she can cook many things, "Italian is where my heart lives," she says. But Giordano wasn't always a professional cook. Her livelihood back east was

as a professional singer. She said she sang "everything" starting at a young age, and that music runs in her blood. Her son William James has a band "Sleeper Signal" that just recorded an album in Nashville, and her daughter in Boston is also a musician. "I sing behind the line and people have told me they enjoy it," Giordano said.

See **BELLAS**, Page A7



Primary election brings changes to Miami, Globe

By DAVID SOWDERS

The July 21 primary election saw an overhaul of Miami's Town Council and a new face added to the Globe City Council, according to unofficial results from the Gila County Department of Elections.

Miami Town Council

Four incumbents and four challengers were running for four seats. Two of the challengers were comfortably ahead as of July 23; John Barajas earned the most votes with 172, and John Soderman was second with 153 votes. Incumbent Councilman Michael Sosh looked to keep his seat, earning 126 votes. Coming in fourth was challenger Ray Webb with 79 votes — a return to the dais for Webb, a two-time former councilman. Incumbents Jose "Angel" Medina Sr., Dan

Moat, and Don Reiman were trailing, with Moat earning 70 votes, Medina 55, and Reiman 42. The fourth challenger, Rick Hall, garnered 62 votes.

Globe City Council

Four seats were also up for election in Globe's City Council, but only one race was contested. In his second run for the District 5 council seat, challenger Matthew Storms defeated incumbent Mariano Gonzalez, 86 to 82. Storms previously faced Gonzalez in the 2022 election, which Gonzalez won by 14 votes. Incumbent councilmen Jesse Leetham of District 3, Fernando Shipley of District 6, and Vice Mayor Mike Stapleton of District 4, all ran unopposed and will retain their council seats. Leetham received 221 votes, Stapleton 165 and Shipley 136.

See **ELECTIONS**, Page A3



LINDA GROSS

The college, which is open to tribal members as well as non-tribal members, is seeking independent accreditation.

San Carlos Apache College pushes toward independence, opens fall enrollment

By CARISSA POOL

As San Carlos Apache College prepares for the fall semester, the institution is celebrating more than open enrollment. It is also moving toward one of the most significant milestones in its history: independent accreditation. Last week, the college submitted its initial accreditation packet, marking a major step toward operating as a fully independent institution. "We're really looking forward to that process," President Dr. Linda Sue Warner said. "We've spent almost a year making sure we've crossed all our I's and dotted all our T's, not only to tell a good story, but because what we're doing is a good story."

Founded by the San Carlos Apache Tribe in 2014 and opening its doors in 2017, San Carlos Apache College was created to provide higher education rooted in Nnee bi'at'e,

Apache ways of knowing, while preparing students for careers, leadership and lifelong learning. The college's vision, "Upholding the Power of Apache Wisdom," is reflected throughout its curriculum and campus culture.

Warner, who will celebrate her second anniversary as president on August 1, said one of her first priorities was ensuring every aspect of the college aligned with its mission. That effort became the ARROW Framework, which represents the college's core values of Accountability, Respect, Resilience, Openness and Wisdom. "I started with the mission statement," Warner said. "Everything that we do is connected. If you're doing something that you can't connect to one of those core values, then why are you doing it?"

See **COLLEGE**, Page A6

Superior's Prickly Pear Festival marks 15 years

By SONIA YANEZ

August in Arizona is so hot that even the lizards stay hidden until dark. People cocoon in front of the air conditioner, and travel for anything non-essential slows to a crawl.

But in downtown Superior, one ruby-red desert wonder is enough to draw people out anyway. Every August, the town comes alive to celebrate the prickly pear, and this year marks the 15th anniversary of the first and longest-running Prickly Pear Festival in the state.

Prickly Pear Festival
Downtown Superior
August 29, 2026 | Free

See **FESTIVAL**, Page A8



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INSIDE

From an unwanted desert landscape to a traveler's oasis A4

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Whose Change, Exactly?



Linda Gross

Miami's recent election came down to a choice most small towns face without ever naming it: insider legitimacy versus competence legitimacy. Voters chose the insiders by a large margin in this election, which saw low voter turnout.

The leading candidate won with 176 votes and will take office in January.

At June's candidate forum, hosted by GMT, he said he was

running for office because a few citizens had asked him to run. He said "nothing had changed here in years" and said a vote for him would be a vote for change.

But in a wide-ranging forum which included

questions on flood recovery, infrastructure, economic development and taxes, he offered little clarity on what that change would be. When it came time to explain how Miami could keep taxes affordable while paying for infrastructure, he didn't have much of an answer. He complained that the printed budget was too small to read, hinted that this was an issue of "transparency," and moved on, without answering the question.

When asked about flood control, other candidates mentioned upstream dams. He questioned why they were discussing dams when the police station didn't have air conditioning.

This seemed to be a throwback to an ongoing fight which has played out at city council. The mayor has insisted on bypassing normal channels in addressing this issue and suggested

going to purchase a unit at Home Depot, instead. The issue has gone so far as to elicit a response from the town attorney explaining the process required when using public monies.

It is unclear what change the winning candidate and his followers want to see, and I guess we will find out in January when he takes office, but the last several years have seen an influx of grant funding to the tune of \$15-plus million dollars and key partnerships developed to further education, housing, infrastructure and community services.

That's not nothing. I hope that the incoming new members of council can fully appreciate the work that has been done to date and work together to build on it. If change is coming, we hope it's in the right direction.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bank stabilization underway in Globe

City learns of FEMA denial, September NRCS deadline approaches

By PATRICIA SANDERS

At their July 14 meeting, Globe City Council learned that the Federal Emergency Management Agency declined the city's request for reconsideration of a disaster declaration after last fall's flooding. Bank stabilization is starting in Pinal Creek, with 16,000 cubic yards of material to be placed in nine areas. Council also recognized Jodi Martin upon her retirement after 30 years with the water department. Nearly 10 months after the September 26 flood, the city's extensive recovery efforts are far from complete, City Manager Paul Jepson told the council.

Jepson presented a summary of the city's immediate response to the flooding, including the community-wide cleanup that took place the following week. The storms caused citywide damage and struck Globe's water and sewer systems harder than officials initially realized.

The event was the most expensive natural disaster in Arizona in the past 20 years, other than COVID-19. Jepson also informed council that FEMA denied Globe's appeal for a disaster declaration because the eligible damage to public infrastructure didn't reach a roughly \$13 million threshold.

This happened in part because federal calculations excluded damage covered by other programs, including creek work funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

FEMA also questioned whether damage to approximately 2.5 miles of sewer



Jesse Hayes road opened on July 24th after being closed for ten days in July, to address drainage issues. Traffic had been diverted through Beer Tree crossing.

line resulted from the flood or normal deterioration. The city argued that flood debris entering the system and being forced downstream did cause identifiable damage in some sections of the line. However, FEMA appears not to have accepted this argument.

The denial will affect residents who would have qualified for full FEMA property buyouts. However, Globe can now pursue possible property acquisitions through the NRCS. Demolition of some flood-damaged structures could begin this week, but details are still being finalized.

A \$2.5 million state allocation will cover Globe's required 25% match for NRCS recovery work. The funding is part of a bipartisan \$10 million regional appropriation recently approved by the governor and legislature.

Mayor Al Gamaros cautioned that Globe's finances will remain tight during the coming fiscal year as the city pays recovery expenses and seeks reimbursement.

"We've got a tough year ahead of us," he said. He said this year's goal would be to hold city finances steady, and the city hopes to be able to make more forward movement next year.

Bank stabilization is next

Globe's flood-recovery work is moving from emergency sediment removal into a five-week effort to stabilize vulnerable creek banks before the current federal funding period ends in September.

Mike Garrison, the general superintendent at Tiffany Construction, said crews have removed approximately 44,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris from the creek, enabling bridges, box culverts and other structures to be reopened that had been obstructed after the September flood. The work is about 90% complete.

Crews were expected to finish the remaining cleanup, including branches, concrete and material beneath several structures,

after which bank stabilization would begin.

Chris Duszka of CivilTech Engineering said their company has identified nine large sections of the creek where erosion could threaten homes, businesses, roads or utilities.

The sites include outside bends where fast-moving water is most likely to cut into the banks. Straight, well-vegetated stretches showing little erosion will generally be left undisturbed.

Approximately 16,000 cubic yards of locally sourced angular riprap — 30-inch-diameter rock — will be placed along the selected banks from the Ice House Canyon area downstream to near the Ford dealership. The rock will be installed in a layer nearly four feet thick over filter fabric.

Garrison said the riprap system is cheaper and faster to construct than shotcrete and is better suited to monsoon conditions. Crews can excavate and place rock in small sections without leaving long stretches of bank exposed. If heavy rain interrupts the work, the excavation can be temporarily covered and resumed later.

Additional rock will be buried six to eight feet beneath the creek bed at the base of each stabilized slope. That underground "toe" is intended to prevent flowing water from undermining the bank.

Duszka said the work must be carefully placed to avoid damaging the water lines and the sewer line crossing or running through the creek.

Two Tiffany crews will

install about 500 cubic yards per day, and the project will be complete within about five weeks, weather permitting. This puts the completion ahead of the September 11 deadline for the NRCS funding.

Garrison said his company is taking precautions for safety and to avoid problems in case of weather events during the work.

CivilTech will also prepare a long-term operations and maintenance plan. For future sediment removal and repairs, the city will consider the possibility of permanent drainage easements and permitting arrangements that would allow crews to enter the creek quickly. Under those agreements, the city would take on permanent responsibility for keeping certain areas clean.

Public Works Director John Angulo also addressed questions about work currently underway off Oil Circle and Jesse Hayes roads, addressing drainage issues and lifted culverts. Angulo said the city is aware of the need to keep the road open. In case of heavy rain during the work, if Beer Tree Crossing has to be closed, the crews will backfill and open Oil Circle.

Update: This work was completed on July 24 and Jesse Hayes Road was reopened.

Council also recognized Jodi Martin on her retirement after 30 years of service. She retires as Globe's water office manager, serving as a primary contact for residents with water and garbage-service issues.

Court clarifies how vineyards and orchards must be taxed

Why it matters for growers

by GMT STAFF

The Arizona Supreme Court has issued a ruling that could lower tax bills for vineyard and orchard owners across the state, holding that permanent crops — grapevines, fruit trees, and similar plantings — must be valued for tax purposes the same way agricultural land is valued, and cannot be separately assessed at market value.

How the case arose

The dispute began in Cochise County, where assessors valued agricultural land using Arizona's statutory income approach. It's a method that taxes

farmland based on what it can produce, not what it could sell for on the open market. But the county went a step further, also assigning a separate market value to the orchard trees and vineyard vines growing on that land. That extra layer pushed up the taxable value of the properties. Agricultural landowners pushed back, arguing the practice conflicted with Arizona's agricultural tax statutes.

What the court decided

The Supreme Court agreed with the landowners. It found that Arizona's agricultural-property statutes work together as a single framework: One law defines what qualifies as agricultural property, and another sets out the exclusive method for valuing it — an income-based approach tied

to actual agricultural use, deliberately insulated from market swings. Reading the two together, the court held that permanent crops are part of the qualifying agricultural property itself, not a separate taxable asset.

Writing for a unanimous court, Justice Maria Elena Cruz explained that letting assessors assign market value to vines or trees on top of the income-based land valuation would reintroduce exactly the kind of market pressure the Legislature told assessors to ignore. It would also mean taxing the same agricultural value twice, once through the income method, once through a market assessment, which state law expressly prohibits as double taxation.

The court also addressed the Arizona Department of Revenue's Agricultural

Property Manual, which had directed assessors to value permanent crops separately. While the department has authority to issue guidance implementing tax statutes, the court ruled that guidance cannot expand or override the valuation method the Legislature actually established. As a result, that portion of the manual is now unenforceable statewide.

The court affirmed the tax court's original judgment. It agreed with the outcome reached by the Court of Appeals but vacated that court's opinion, replacing it with its own reasoning.

Why this matters if you own a vineyard or orchard

For growers, the practical impact is straightforward: no more double-counting. If your county has been valu-

ing your land as farmland and then separately taxing your vines or trees at market rate, this ruling says that practice is no longer allowed anywhere in Arizona, not just Cochise County. Mature vineyard plantings especially can carry substantial market value on their own, so removing that separate assessment could mean a real reduction in tax liability going forward.

It also means the protections built into the income-based method, designed to reflect farming, not real estate speculation, now clearly extend to what's actually growing on the land. Growers who believe they've been assessed under the old approach may have solid legal grounds to challenge their valuation on future assessments.

LOCAL NEWS



Tim Rogers

COURTESY PHOTO

New protocols, faster response: Pinto Valley's HSE team delivers

New team brings emergency and wildland fire experience

By LINDA GROSS

Pinto Valley's health, safety and environment department has spent this year strengthening the mine's emergency-response capabilities, and last month that investment paid off. Under new mine rescue team specialist Tim Rogers, the team coordinated a rapid, multiagency response to two separate wildfires within three days — a result company officials credit directly to the department's preparation. Rogers, who joined Capstone Copper Pinto Valley in April 2026, brings more than a decade of frontline emergency-response experience to the mine. Rogers began his career in mining, and has also served as an emergency medical technician and wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service, and he holds a

degree in nursing. "From medical emergencies and technical rope rescues to fire response, my goal is to build a team that is highly trained, prepared and capable of responding to any incident on or around mine property," Rogers said. Being prepared was key, when, in late June, staff spotted smoke near Pinto Creek. Rogers coordinated site access for responding agencies, supplied 4,000-gallon water trucks to refill engines and established a helicopter dip site to support aerial firefighting. Two days later, when a second fire closed U.S. Route 60 in both directions, the team kept the mine's workforce informed in real time and managed site traffic to support firefighters, ensuring the highway could reopen safely and employees were left stranded.

"Pinto Valley plays an important role in supporting local emergency response efforts and working alongside our community partners during emergencies," Rogers said, noting that the mine similarly supported the Globe-Miami community during the 2025 floods by providing equip-

ment and operators for cleanup and recovery. "This is what a strong HSE culture looks like in practice," said Mark Scott, Pinto Valley's general manager. "A proactive team, clear protocols and people who take ownership the moment something goes wrong."

ELECTIONS

FROM PAGE A1

Gila County offices

There were no surprises in the primary elections for Gila County offices, with seven incumbents running unopposed and cruising to victory. With no general election opponent, six of them will retain their offices:

- County Recorder Wendy Mannigel-Smith — R
- Superior Court Division II Judge Timothy Wright — R
- Globe Regional Justice of the Peace Jordan Reardon — D
- Payson Regional Justice of the Peace Donald Garvin — R
- Globe Regional Justice Court Constable Ruben Mancha — D
- Payson Regional Justice Court Constable Tony McDaniel — R
- The seventh primary-winning incumbent, Clerk of the Superior Court Anita Escobedo — D, will face independent candidate Yvette Hoffman in November.

Turnout

According to Gila County Department of Elections unofficial results, voter turnout for the primary was 38%, with 13,205 ballots cast out of 34,258 registered voters.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

From an unwanted desert landscape to a traveler's oasis

Monastery rose from humble beginnings in desert south of Florence

By LINDA GROSS

South of Florence, Arizona, the desert offers little to suggest what lies ahead. Greasewood, scrub brush and cholla cactus stretch across a flat, sunburned expanse of the Sonoran Desert, the kind of landscape that seems to actively discourage anything green from surviving in it. Then, almost without warning, palm trees rise against the horizon, and St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery comes into view: a compound of Byzantine domes, courtyards and orchards that feels transplanted from another continent entirely.

The contrast is the point. Where the surrounding desert offers only heat and dust, the monastery grounds offer shade, moving water, and a breeze threading through citrus trees and olive groves. It's the same startling juxtaposition found at Boyce Thompson Arboretum in the height of summer, proof that with enough dedication, green life can be coaxed out of even the harshest ground.

That transformation didn't happen by accident. St. Anthony's was founded in the summer of 1965, when Elder Ephraim — a



The monastery welcomes both Orthodox and non-Orthodox visitors free of charge, and wandering its grounds is worth the trip on its own.

former abbot of Philotheou Monastery on Mount Athos with a history of restoring and repopulating monasteries — sent six monks of Athonite heritage into the Sonoran Desert to establish a new monastery dedicated to Saint Anthony the Great, the father of monasticism. Today it's recognized as the largest Orthodox monastic complex in the Western Hemisphere, a remarkable claim for a site that began, quite literally, with two

trailers pitched in the dirt. Elder Ephraim remained at St. Anthony's for the rest of his life. Following his passing, the monastery has continued under the leadership of Abbot Paisios, its first abbot, and now houses roughly 50 monks. What started as a handful of monks and a makeshift chapel has grown into a sprawling complex: a main church, seven additional chapels, a central courtyard, and a bookstore, all woven

between gardens, orchards and rows of palms that seem to defy the landscape around them.

The monastery welcomes

Visitors are welcome daily from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Upon arrival, stop at the gatehouse; if no monk is at the bookstore, wait at the gift shop. Dress code: men need long sleeves and trousers; women need long skirts, long sleeves and a head covering. Check the monastery's website at: stanthonymonastery.org for the latest guidelines before visiting.

both Orthodox and non-Orthodox visitors free of charge, and wandering its grounds is worth the trip on its own — through citrus trees and olive groves by day, and beneath a canopy of desert stars once night falls. It stands as a quiet argument that beauty and stillness can take root anywhere, even in a place seemingly built to resist them.

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WEDNESDAY	- TIGER SHARK PRACTICE 4PM-6PM - LAP SWIM 8:30-8PM
THURSDAY	- TIGER SHARKS PRACTICE 4PM-6PM - WATER AEROBICS 5:30PM-6:30PM - ADULT LAP SWIMMING 6PM-8PM
FRIDAY	- ADULT LAP SWIMMING 8AM-10AM - OPEN SWIM 10AM-5PM - TIGER SHARK PRACTICE 6PM-8PM - ADULT LAP SWIMMING 6PM-8PM
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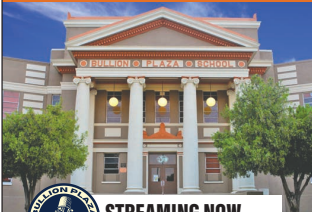
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EDUCATION

Growing something that lasts

Gila Community College launches master gardener course this fall

GMT STAFF

There's a particular kind of frustration that comes with gardening in southern Gila County. You plant something that thrived in a magazine photo or a YouTube tutorial, and it withers anyway, because that advice was written for someone else's soil, someone else's climate, someone else's pests. This fall, Gila Community College and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension are offering a way to fix that problem for good.

The class

Starting August 18, GCC's Gila Pueblo Campus and the cooperative extension are offering AGR230, "Gardening and Landscape," a course built specifically for growers in this part of the state. Classes meet Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m., running through December 8, at the Gila Pueblo Campus, 8274 South Six Shooter Canyon Rd.

The instructor is Christopher Jones, county extension agent, who will bring in expert guest speakers from Gila County and the University of Arizona for lectures and hands-on activities throughout the semester.

****This isn't generic gardening advice — it's regionally specific instruction on soil, irrigation, native and adapted plants, and the pest and disease pressures unique to southern Gila County.***

The course follows standard GCC tuition and fees, and the required text is the *Arizona Master Gardener Manual*, available online through UA Cooperative Extension Publications. Arizona residents 55 and older should ask about the senior tuition waiver.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The master gardeners often offer hoophouse building workshops. Here Jones works on the frame of a hoophouse.

Registration

- In person at Gila Community College
- By phone: 928-425-8481
- Online: <https://gilacc.org/>

The last day to register is August 21. If you haven't registered at GCC recently, you'll need to do so in person with two forms of identification; returning students can register directly online.

More than a class: Becoming a master gardener

Completing AGR230 isn't just about learning, it's the entry point into becoming a certified master gardener.

The master gardener program is a volunteer program run through university extension services, and it works on a simple exchange: You get real, science-based horticultural training, and in return, you commit to giving some of that knowledge back to your community.

Certification is granted



Chris Jones, University of Arizona extension agent and instructor of the master gardener class.

after successfully completing the course, registering as an official UA volunteer, and completing at least 50 hours of volunteer educational services within the following 12 months.

Whether it is helping your neighbor diagnose a pesky problem with his tomatoes, teaching a workshop in container garden-

ing, or helping with a community garden, the goal is to pay it forward. And of course, your own garden will thank you.

Accommodations and contact information

Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter,

by contacting Elisa Oros at 928-351-6029. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

For more information about the class or becoming a master gardener volunteer, call Chris Jones at 928-719-4475.

COLLEGE: Welcoming students from all backgrounds

FROM PAGE A1

The framework guides everything from employee evaluations to classroom instruction, and Warner said everyone on campus, from faculty members to maintenance staff, understands what ARROW represents.

The college also established the Apache Institute, ensuring Apache language, history and culture are woven throughout every academic discipline rather than isolated within a single department.

"I don't believe there should be a Native Studies department inside a tribal college," Warner said. "Everything you do should be about the culture."

While its mission is centered on preserving Apache culture, San Carlos Apache College welcomes students from all backgrounds.

"Anyone can enroll," Warner said. "In fact, enrollment is open right now."



SUBMITTED PHOTO
President Dr. Linda Sue Warner

Many courses are offered online, making the college accessible not only to students throughout Gila County, but across Arizona and beyond. Currently, San Carlos Apache College offers associate degrees in computer information systems, liberal arts, business administration, business

management, management and supervision, and social work, along with certificates in management and supervision, social services, and substance abuse and addiction studies. Social work remains one of the college's most sought-after programs, Warner said, with roughly one-third of this spring's graduates earning credentials in that field.

Students also benefit from a unique financial advantage. While the college pursues independent accreditation, it operates under Tohono O'odham Community College, allowing students to attend without paying tuition. Credits are transferable through Arizona's statewide transfer system, making it easy to continue toward a bachelor's degree at Arizona colleges and universities.

Beyond academics, the college provides individualized support, including academic advising, tutoring, mental health resources,

computer labs, and loaned laptops with internet hotspots to help students succeed in online courses.

Warner believes the people who choose to work at tribal colleges are driven by something deeper than a paycheck.

"People who come to work at a tribal college are mission-driven, not financially driven," she said. "They're trying to change lives."

For adults considering returning to school, Warner understands the challenge firsthand. She earned advanced degrees while raising a family and working, an experience she said shaped her perspective on higher education.

"It is selfish in a way, but

on the other hand it's a gift you give your family," she said. "If you don't make that commitment, then your family's stuck where you are."

Looking ahead, Warner hopes to raise the college's profile nationally. In August, she and Durena Thompson, the school's board chair, will travel to the University of Cambridge in England, where Warner will deliver a keynote address at the World Congress of Education on Indigenous education. The college is also preparing to join a national higher education consortium with several prominent universities. "My goal," Warner said, "is to put San Carlos Apache College on the map."

Students interested in enrolling for the fall semester can apply online through the Tohono O'odham Community College admissions portal at my.tocc.edu. Applicants should select San Carlos Apache College on the application to ensure they are admitted to the correct campus. Additional information about programs and admissions is available at apachecollege.org.

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LOCAL NEWS

BELLAS: ‘Everyone is welcome to our house’

FROM PAGE A1

When Giordano first opened Bellas, it was in a different location.

“There was a vibe there that people really enjoyed,” so she was worried about changing locations, she said.

But a bigger space was offered to her, so she took the leap and went all in. She said this location is retro and has an old-school style, warmed up with her family photos on the walls.

Giordano said her current endeavor is “definitely meeting my vision,” and that she is proud that it’s entirely family-run.

Giordano cooks every meal that leaves the kitchen. Her son is the server, her husband helps out behind the bar and as a dishwasher on weekends, and her daughter will be coming out to Superior in September to help cook. She said they do employ a dishwasher who helps out during the week.

Bellas also features a full bar and is working on drink specials. Everything is made to order, and, while it can be hard, Giordano said she has pushed out 300 meals in a day, which earned her a standing ovation from the dining room.

“Every meal that comes out is with love and care that goes into every plate.”



Bellas Cafe is a family-run business, with Nancy Giordano, chef and owner, at the helm.

PHOTOS BY YVETTE VARGAS

She also prides herself in clean bathrooms, which she believes to be important.

The road from the east to Arizona wasn’t an easy one. During the COVID pan-

demie, Giordano said she was living in Connecticut. She lost her mother and, after that, decided to make the move to Arizona. She said they found a realtor, made the plans, and were also bringing her father,

who had turned 100. “He always wanted to go to Arizona,” she said.

They made plans to fly him over while they made the drive, until she received a call that they had lost him on the day they closed on the sale of their house. She believes it all happened the way it was meant.

Giordano attributes everything to her mother. She said it was “

divine alignment,” and her mother guided the whole trip for her.

One of her favorite sayings is, “We make plans and God laughs.”

Another endeavor that is close to Giordano’s heart is recording the history of Superior through the eyes of the locals. She started looking into the history of the building and said, “I’m the type of person who will look at a tree and say, ‘I wonder how many people sat under that tree.’”

She’s been talking to local residents, getting their stories, and said she’s hoping she can put “something beautiful” out there.

“Stories of people’s Tata’s that their children will be able to read,” is what she hopes to put into a book. She said, “Even looking at the old photos of Superior, it was so vibrant. People losing their culture saddens me.”

Giordano and her family have truly made a home in Arizona and are working at making the most of their space.

“We call the restaurant our house, and we will welcome everyone to our house.”



Plans for a mercado in the open courtyard attached to the cafe are about to take shape in August.



COURTESY PHOTO

True to the cafe’s reputation for creating unique things you can’t just find anywhere, comes their Hatch Green Chili Vanilla ice cream – sweet & spicy!

Coming in September!

Attention All Vendors

We need YOU and your applications ASAP!

Please pick up your application now for both events at the Miami Town Hall and return with \$65* booth fee!
Includes both day booth fees/overnight and town license.

Miami Fiesta and Mile High Car Show

Sept. 4th Evening Kick-off dance
Sept 5th Fiesta 9am-11pm | Car Show 9am-2pm

Call 480-273-2832 for booth space and more information.

New this year!
CAR SHOW



Coming in August!

Thanks to all who joined the Guide this year to represent our community!

The new 2027 Community Guide will be coming out mid-August!

OBITUARY

**Patricia A. Killmer***Jan. 26, 1943 — July 2, 2026*

Patricia A. Killmer, born January 26, 1943, in Jerome, Arizona, passed away on July 2, 2026, peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones in Globe, Arizona. Her passing marks the end of a richly-lived and deeply impactful life, remembered fondly by those whose lives she touched.

Patricia graduated from Miami High School in 1961, beginning a journey that would see her shape her community through both professional accomplishments and dedicated service. She held positions at Copper Cities and Superior mines. Patricia owned several businesses in Globe over the years, building relationships and connections with customers, friends and colleagues. She also was a city council member and served one term.

She was happiest when surrounded by family and friends, whether traveling to new destinations, listening to music, dancing or playing cards. Roosevelt Lake held a special place in her heart — boating and fishing there brought her great joy and provided many treasured memories. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Elks Club and the Slavic Club, where her warmth and friendliness were felt by all in attendance.

Patricia is survived by her daughter, Melissa A. Fewell (Kory); her grandson, Jacob P. Fewell; life partner Mick Holder; her stepson Thomas Killmer (Karla); and step grandsons Bryan Seppala and Dustin Seppala.

A private celebration of life will be held at a future date.

To send flowers or plant a memorial tree in memory, please visit our flower store.

Submit your obituaries via our website at globemiamitimes.com (fastest review and turnaround)

or directly to editor@globemiamitimes.com, include your name and phone number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chef John Wong of Bravo Americano Moderno recreates

Through a partnership with the local 4-H Jr. Beef Cook Off competition, which took place earlier this month, Chef John Wong of Bravo Americano Moderno recreates the kids' winning recipes for a fundraiser, offering the dishes on the restaurant's menu for a week. The proceeds go back to the 4-H program.

COURTESY PHOTO

Chef/owner John Wong delivers a check to the winning teams.

FESTIVAL: Free admission, open to the public

FROM PAGE A1

What to expect

The festival is free to the public and offers:

- Food vendors serving up prickly pear-themed dishes and products
- Guest speakers covering food education and sustainability
- Educational demonstrations on cooking with and using prickly pear for health
- Lectures, classes and specialty sessions on plant medicine, permaculture, regenerative design, homeopathies and activism
- Vendor and craft booths from artisans across Superior and beyond

According to the festival's Facebook page, the event has never been just about the fruit itself. "We are not just about Prickly Pears; every year we do our best to bring food education, plant medicine, sustainability, permaculture, regenerative design, homeopathies, and activism to the forefront of this event."

Local restaurants and shops join in too, often running prickly pear-themed specials all weekend long.

The festival traces its roots back to a friendship. Paul Walterbeek, a former employee at

Boyce Thompson Arboretum and an enthusiastic home wine-maker known for his prickly pear wine, approached Pete Cillas about partnering on an annual event celebrating the fruit. The idea caught on fast, and 15 years later, it's grown into a full weekend of lectures, classes, food and community.

For anyone unfamiliar, the prickly pear is the fruit of the nopal cactus, native throughout North and South America. It's low in calories and fat but packed with dietary fiber, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals — including vitamin C, vitamin A, magnesium and potassium.

It shows up in candy, jams, salads, smoothies and desserts, and has centuries of traditional use behind it. These days, it's increasingly recognized as a genuine superfood, valued for both its flavor and its medicinal properties.

Artisans and crafters have been preparing for months, and organizers are expecting a strong turnout for the last Saturday in August. If you've never tried a prickly pear, there's no better introduction than a festival built entirely around it: food, learning, shopping and the kind of small-town hospitality Superior is known for.



Sweet kiwi smoothie with prickly pear and lime juice.

STOCK PHOTO

'An incredible partner to our community'

— ANGEL RUIZ, Executive Director, Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce



YEVETTE VARGAS PHOTOGRAPHY

GLOBE-MIAMI CHAMBER 'LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR' AWARD: Angel Ruiz, Globe-Miami Chamber, center, with Anna Vargas, left and Bryan Seppala of Resolution Copper.

'We're incredibly honored to receive this recognition.'

RESOLUTION

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