

***A research and advocacy association, supporting efficient, responsive county government in Arizona.***



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## Former State Lawmaker John Wettaw Passed Away

Former state legislator and former Northern Arizona University (NAU) professor John Wettaw passed away this week.

NAU President Rita Cheng announced his passing. Wettaw holds the record as the longest-serving Republican state legislator in Arizona history. He served 20 years in the state House and eight more in the state Senate. Wettaw retired from the state legislature in 2001. He taught chemistry at NAU for 47 years and retired from NAU in 2014.

Governor Ducey expressed his sympathies for the iconic public servant Wettaw on social media.

CSA extends our condolences to his family and friends.

Source: [Northern Arizona University](#)



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## Governor Ducey Appoints New Senator McSally

Governor Ducey announced the appointment of U.S. Representative Martha McSally to the Senate following the resignation of U.S. Senator Jon Kyl on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Governor Ducey noted that "All her life, Martha has put service first — leading in the toughest of fights and at the toughest of times," and that "Martha is uniquely qualified to step up and fight for Arizona's interests in the U.S. Senate. I thank her for taking on this significant responsibility and look forward to working with her and Senator-Elect Sinema to get positive things done."

Representative McSally said "I am humbled and grateful to have this opportunity to serve and be a voice for all Arizonans. I look forward to working with Senator-Elect Kyrsten Sinema and getting to work from day one."

To view the Governor's press release, please [click here](#)



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## Interim Committees Meet

### Towing Safety Task Force

The Towing Safety Task Force established by [HB 2125 task force; towing safety](#) (Shope) met this week. The charge of the committee is to do the following:

- Review the safety efficacy of existing towing laws;
- Receive data, reports and testimony regarding towing and roadside safety;
- Recommend driver education measures to improve driver awareness of existing laws and promote driving habits that emphasize roadside safety;
- Recommend policy proposals to improve towing safety in this state.

The Task Force, chaired by Representative Shope, heard from Angela Barnett, Executive Director of Arizona Professional Towing & Recovery Association, and Major Brian Preston from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Barrett discussed the challenges and deadly issues tow truck drivers face daily on Arizona roadways. Preston shared an overview of existing tow truck rules and regulations with the committee.



The Task Force will submit a report of its findings and recommendations on or before December 31, 2018.

## JCCR

The Joint Committee on Capitol Review (JCCR) met prior to the JLBC meeting earlier this week to hear from the University of Arizona (UofA) and Arizona State University (ASU) on various projects including the UofA's student success district project, and ASU's Health Solutions Innovation Center Financing Project. JCCR also received a status report from Arizona State Parks on their capital projects.

In addition, the committee heard from the Arizona Department of Corrections (DOC) that they will need additional resources to upgrade certain facilities to handle more serious inmates. The committee did not vote on approval of any additional funds, but Senator Kavanagh noted that there are enough available private prison beds that can handle the increase in certain types of inmates. He went on to note that possible criminal justice reform legislation this year would make it unnecessary to upgrade prison facilities.

## JLBC

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) met earlier this week to review a variety of issues including approving the indexing of the School Facilities Board construction costs; the Department of Child Safety (DCS) first quarter benchmarks and line item transfers; the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Arizona Training Program in Coolidge; and the Arizona Department of Administration's (ADOA) review of public safety broadband.

In addition the committee heard from the Arizona Department of Corrections (DOC) regarding their proposed bed capacity changes, essentially reviewing what had been shared during the previous JCCR meeting.

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## JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) reported that the state's year-to-date General Fund revenues are up 9.0 percent in their latest monthly fiscal highlights. In November, General Fund collections were \$731.7 million, 4.8 percent above November 2017, with most of the growth coming from the state's sales tax collections. Sales tax revenues were 4.4 percent above forecast, while individual and corporate income tax collections were (2.9) percent and (49.3) percent, respectively, below forecast. JLBC noted that November typically sees smaller income tax collections, which can lead to misses in the forecast that aren't necessarily linked to economic trends.

General Fund expenditures in November declined from November 2017 by \$(16.7) million, for a total of \$656.1 million and year-to-date expenditures are at \$5.42 billion.

Highway User Revenue Fund collections are 1.9 percent above the year-to-date budgeted forecast, with November revenues at \$123.3 million.

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## Bald Eagle Cam

You can now view a bald eagles' nest in Lake Pleasant, Arizona thanks to [the Arizona Game and Fish Department's \(AGFD\) bald eagle nest cam](#). This live-streaming camera provides an unedited glimpse of nature in all its beauty and cruelty. As with nature, viewers may witness a variety of behaviors that may seem cruel, such as feeding on other wild animals, so viewer discretion is advised.

A suspected bald eagle nest was first documented at Lake Pleasant in 1979, which was followed with the first nesting attempt in 1984. Unfortunately, the eagle pair was unsuccessful in producing young until 1993 when the New Waddell Dam was constructed. Since then, as of the 2018 breeding season, 28 young have survived to take their first flight, known as fledging.

For more information, please [click here](#).

**Source:** [Arizona Game & Fish](#)

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