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# TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

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**GOOD MORNING!**

**TODAY'S FORECAST:**  
Mostly sunny

**80 53** SEE PAGE 11

**4 TO READ INSIDE TODAY**



**NATION:** Russia's onslaught continues amid optimism over talks.  
SEE PAGE 12



**NATION:** Fed begins inflation fight with key rate hike, with more to come.  
SEE PAGE 11



**HEALTH:** Column: Cauliflower doesn't wear a cape: Unpacking the myth of the superfood.  
SEE PAGE 9



**SPORTS:** Yankees, Mets and all MLB again affected by covid in 2022.  
SEE PAGE 6

**OBITUARIES**

No new notices in today's paper. See recent listings at [HavasuNews.com/obituaries](http://HavasuNews.com/obituaries)

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## Lawmakers may sidestep tax cut

**ARIZONA LEGISLATURE PLANS SPECIAL SESSION TO 'REPEAL-AND-ACCELERATE' VOTER-APPROVED TAX CUT**

By **HOWARD FISCHER**  
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Key Republican lawmakers and Gov. Doug Ducey are moving to undermine the scheduled public vote on last year's \$1.9 billion tax cut.

That's not officially the goal of

a planned special legislative session. Instead, it is to replace that package with an even bigger tax cut and have whatever new tax plan is enacted take effect even sooner than previously planned.

The goal, however, is the same: A flat tax rate. And that means the most wealthy, by virtue of paying

the highest taxes, would get the biggest relief.

But in order to enact a new plan, legislators would first need to repeal the 2021 measure.

That's the one that foes managed to collect to collect more than 215,000 signatures last year to hold up enactment until this November's election when voters would get to decide whether to ratify or reject the plan.

If lawmakers repeal that 2021

measure, however, there is nothing left to send to the ballot for voters to consider — even if it is replaced with a similar proposal.

David Lujan, a key player in referring last year's measure to voters, said the whole reason for the plan to repeal the 2021 plan, kill the November vote and reenact a different one is "because lawmakers know these tax cuts are wildly

See **TAX CUT**, Page 5

**DIXIE BELLE | COUNTY SUPERVISORS MUST APPROVE LIQUOR SALES**



The Dixie Belle remains docked Monday on the Bridgewater Channel, as its owner awaits final approval from Mohave County to sell liquor on board. The popular passenger riverboat now provides sunset cruises to Havasu residents and visitors from the English Village.

## Dixie Belle seeks liquor license before big advertising push

By **BRANDON MESSICK**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Spring break has come to Lake Havasu City, and revelers will be in no short supply this month. But there's one lady on the Bridgewater Channel who will need a vote by the county's governing board before she can have a few drinks.

The Mohave County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote next week on a possible liquor license for one of Lake Havasu's most famous boats, the "Dixie Belle."

A previous liquor license was approved for the passenger riverboat last year, by a unanimous vote of the Lake Havasu City Council,

and owner Keith Fernung says he sees no reason the county would refuse.

"We've been doing cruises every night at sunset," Fernung said on Tuesday. "We've been serving soda, and letting people bring their own beer coolers, but we'll start serving alcohol when we get our license. We're going to do a lot more advertising once that passes."

The Dixie Belle was once a popular sight on Lake Havasu, until it was removed from the water more than a decade ago for long overdue, much-needed repairs. The 68-ton, 32-foot-tall riverboat made its return to the Bridgewater Channel last March as Fernung sought final approval from the U.S.

Coast Guard for the ship to sail again.

The ship made its first passenger voyage at November's Lake Havasu Boat Parade of Lights, and has offered nightly sunset cruises around the Island since January.

"We've received nothing but support from Lake Havasu City," Fernung said this week. "The community support has been amazing."

The county's governing board is expected to vote on the Dixie Belle's requested liquor license at its next meeting Monday in Kingman.

The vote will be part of the county's consent agenda, and may be approved by the board of supervisors without discussion.

## Supervisors to vote on renewing farm lease

By **BRANDON MESSICK**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

About 8.62 million acres of land comprise Mohave County — but 15 very important acres of that land will mean a continued vote by county officials under the Mohave Valley Irrigation and Drainage District.

Since 2018, Mohave County has officially owned 15 acres of Mohave Valley farmland. The land was purchased that year for \$250,000, when Mohave County officials foresaw the possibility of MVIDD agreements allowing Colorado River water to be diverted to other parts of Arizona. Ownership over that land, which is now leased to Mohave Valley-based 4-B Farms, continues to ensure that Mohave County gets a vote on how the district's water will be used. And that lease is now up for renewal at next week's meeting of the county's governing board.

The Mohave County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote Monday on whether to extend its lease with 4-B

See **FARM LEASE**, Page 5

## Appeal: Written arguments to begin in May for man who shot TV personality's son

By **BRANDON MESSICK**  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

A Lake Havasu City man convicted in the shooting of a television personality's son isn't set to be released for another seven years — but he could get out much sooner, if his appeal in the case is successful later this summer.

Garrett D. Wilder, 23, was tried last year on felony charges after he was accused of shooting victim Garrett Dotson, 24, from the window of his vehicle.

Dotson, who is the son of A&E Network's "Storage Wars" personality Dan Dotson, suffered critical injuries during the incident, and was flown to a Las Vegas hospital for emergency medical treatment. A Mohave County jury convicted Wilder on charges of drive-by shooting in December, but the Arizona Court of Appeals is scheduled to review his case beginning in May.

As of Tuesday, Wilder remained in custody at Red

See **APPEAL**, Page 5

**THINGS TO DO**

## Triathlons, rodeos and pickleballs, oh my: Havasu is abuzz with events this weekend

By **JOEY POSTIGLIONE**  
TODAY'S NEWS HERALD

Lake Havasu City is abuzz this weekend.

With temperatures creeping ever closer towards the 90s this week, there are plenty of events happening over the weekend that'll give the whole family a chance to get out and enjoy the spring weather.

**LAKE HAVASU STAMPEDE RODEO**  
(Friday and Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5:30 p.m.)

Professional cowboys and cowgirls are coming from all over to take part in the Stampede Rodeo at

SARA Park this weekend. Participants will compete in the following rodeo events: bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Mutton Busting will also be happening for the youngsters but registration is already full.

Tickets can be bought in advance online at [havasustampe.com/sellers-info](http://havasustampe.com/sellers-info) or at the gate with cash. Adults cost \$15 and Children \$5.

**PICKLEFEST 2022**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, at 9 a.m.

The largest pickleball tournament in Lake



Cyclists make their way down London Bridge Road during the 2021 Havasu Triathlon.

Havasu City history is coming to Dick Samp Memorial Park. Over 120 pickleball players from as far as Michigan and

Montana will compete in the three day tournament. Friday will see

See **EVENTS**, Page 5