



September 2, 2023

BEST SCHOOLS IN THE NATION FOUND IN AZ

A new analysis of 25,000 public high schools by U.S. News & World Report reveals 12 Arizona schools are named in their ranking of the top 100 high schools in the country. Nine are Basis Charter Schools. Arizona's top performer is Basis Peoria listed at number 12. University High School in Tucson, University High School in Tolleson, and Gilbert Classical Academy High School also made the list. What are these schools doing that our underachieving schools aren't doing? How are they tackling teacher shortages, learning loss, and poor academic performance? These top schools are faced with the same hurdles that schools across the country are experiencing and yet they are setting the standard for educational excellence. Throwing more money at our problems doesn't solve them. I encourage our school administrators to look at the policies and programs of our top-achievers for real solutions.



-Senator Ken Bennett

DISASTEROUS BLOW TO ASU STUDENT-ATHLETES

The hits to Arizona State University student-athletes just keep coming. The latest was this week's announcement of a self-imposed bowl ban for 2023 amid an ongoing NCAA investigation. As a result of the continued chaos of this athletic program led by Ray Anderson, I wrote a letter to the Arizona Board of Regents calling for an investigation into any misconduct encouraged by the leadership of this publicly funded institution and the fallout these student-athletes are enduring. As a proud Arizona State alum and lifelong Sun Devil fan, I've been troubled for some time by the administration of ASU's athletic department. Did ASU intentionally announce the bowl ban after the April 2023 undergraduate transfer portal deadline in an effort to prevent players from leaving the university once they received this information? There are so many questions the public deserves answers to, and I look forward to receiving a prompt response.



-Senator T.J. Shope



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GROWING CONCERNS OVER FENTANYL DEATHS

A new poll by Noble Predictive Insights recently revealed that 90% of Americans are worried about fentanyl overdose deaths in some capacity. This is no surprise to me as the number continues to rise here in Arizona and across the country. Our law enforcement is consistently seizing large amounts of these deadly pills being transported into communities. Back in June, over 1 million pills were seized in a vehicle on its way through my district headed for Phoenix. As a Senator who represents border communities and chairman of the Military Affairs, Public Safety and Border Security, I can assure you that we will continue to work to fight this crisis impacting our state. Fentanyl is a topic that needs more attention and more conversation so we can begin to find solutions.



- Senator David Gowan

SEND THE INVOICE TO DC

Arizona will sadly pay millions of dollars to the federal government following a lawsuit over the shipping containers that were placed along our border to help secure it. A lawsuit that was filed stated in part, 'It hindered the abilities of federal agencies to do their jobs.' Yet, we were forced to do their job for them. Those shipping containers were installed to keep human smuggling, deadly fentanyl, child sex trafficking, rapes and murders from spilling across our border. This border crisis is a federal disaster that should be solved by the federal government. Governor Hobbs should work with the Legislature to implement resources to protect our border and then send the invoices to DC for reimbursement. Unfortunately, she and our Democrat Legislators are exacerbating this national security threat and are only an extension of President Biden and his reckless policies.



-Senator Sonny Borrelli



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HIGHLIGHTING MAJOR WINS FOR ARIZONA

I was happy to join Mark Brodie in studio at KJZZ for an interview on “The Show” to recap some of the highlights of this past legislative session. I’m very proud of the unity Senate Republicans displayed in order to pass impactful legislation to help our citizens who are hurting under the weight of crippling inflation caused by Democrats at the federal level. We discussed the historic Arizona Families Tax Rebates, which will go out this fall, totaling as much as \$750 per family. We also touched on the importance of eliminating the tax our renters are hit with in each monthly payment they make to keep a roof over their heads. Tenants can soon expect to see a savings of \$50 to \$200 per month. Looking ahead to next session, our Caucus will continue to focus in on inflation relief and increasing our housing supply to bring costs down. You can catch the interview sometime next week at theshow.kjzz.org.



-President Warren Petersen

ENJOYING ARIZONA’S STATE PARKS

Every Labor Day weekend, our State Parks welcome thousands of visitors from across Arizona. We have more than 30 state parks and natural areas that provide the opportunity for friends and family to get together and enjoy water activities, camp, hike, or just relax in nature. I’m a big proponent of establishing and protecting these areas and am so proud that we were able to include funding for maintaining and improving them in this year’s budget. I personally appropriated \$7 million for purchasing land to develop a new State Park near the headwaters of the Verde River in Paulden, AZ. This area is filled with potential for outdoor activities, and I know visitors will enjoy it when the park is established. Whatever you decide to do this Labor Day weekend, I pray you appreciate the time with your loved ones.



- Senator Sine Kerr



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