



United pulls out the stops to Washington

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United Airlines is pulling out the stops - at least the one it makes in Phoenix - on flights from Tucson to Dulles International Airport outside Washington D.C. Last week the airline announced it will start nonstop service Oct. 31. The flight will shave about two hours off the scheduled travel time each way on United's existing one-stop flight to Dulles.

The schedule calls for the new flight to depart Tucson at 9:35 a.m. each day, arriving at Dulles at 3:40 p.m. The return leaves at 5:05 p.m., arriving back in Tucson at 8:07 p.m. United will use an Airbus A319 on the service, with eight seats in first class, 40 in economy plus and 72 in coach. Last week, the website www.airtucson.com was quoting a round-trip fare of \$337.10 for the flight.

Dulles is a hub for United, which means the flight will permit passengers quicker connections to European airports such as London Heathrow, Paris Charles DeGaulle, Frankfurt and Munich. United says the flight is scheduled until April but if customer reaction meets forecasts, it could be extended to year-round.

JetBlue includes Tucson flights in fall fare sale

JetBlue Airways doesn't even begin flying to Tucson until Sept. 28, but last week the airline included its nonstop flights to New York's Kennedy Airport in its "Fall Sale," with a \$129 fare each way, matching the introductory fare that had expired earlier this month. The fall fare applies on the Tucson flights through Nov. 15. Tickets must be purchased by Thursday (Aug. 3) and come with the usual caveats, the main one being that not all seats on all flights will be sold at the sale fare.

Pima County wages average \$717 a week

Pima County's average weekly wage was \$717 in the fourth quarter of 2005, a 2.4 percent increase over the same period a year earlier, according to data released last week by the Bureau of Labor statistics. The national average wage is \$825 a week. In Maricopa County, it is \$818. Pima and Maricopa are the only two Arizona counties included in the data.

Employment in Pima County grew by 3.1 percent to 364,200 jobs by the end of 2005.

Among the counties in the report, the highest average wage was \$1,684 a week in New York. The lowest average wage was \$506 in Cameron, which is in central Texas in the middle of a triangle almost

equidistant from Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. Even there, the average wage was up 1.4 percent, according to the statistics.

NEW IN TOWN

Hail Caesar, salad, soup & spud bar opens in downtown Tucson

Harold McCadden, the original owner of Simply Convenient, has opened Hail Caesar, a salad, soup and spud bar restaurant, at 135 E. Congress St.

The salad bar offers more than 100 different fresh items each day. There are also up to eight soups and a potato bar. Fitting its name, the restaurant also offers made-to-order Caesar salad and lavash.

Within a week or two, McCadden says he will also sell fresh produce from the store but first he wants to get the restaurant up and running.

The telephone number for Hail Caesar is (520) 623-0078.

Principal Financial opens new center to serve Tucson

The Principal Financial Group has opened a new Tucson area office at 7498 N. La Cholla Blvd. Managed through Vetrano Financial Services by owner Tom Vetrano, the new office is a first for Southern Arizona. It is intended to better serve the company's financial planning clients in the Tucson area. The telephone number is (520) 219-5106.

BIOTECH

Researchers use local program to analyze cancer treatments

Light-activated drugs and their ability to fight cancer are being tested at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University using an advanced systems analysis program, developed by Tucson's Breault Research Organization.

Called photodynamic therapy, this new form of radiation treatment uses specific wavelengths of light to trigger cancer cells to self-destruct. By incorporating the Breault system into the testing program, the Brody School researchers are creating virtual organs and analyzing their radiation absorption to improve the effectiveness of the experimental treatment.

TECHNOLOGY

State of Utah joins universities in purchase of surplus system

Tucson-based Web Data Corp., has sold its Web-based surplus property and auction management system to the State of Utah.

The system was created for the University of Arizona and is now also used at universities in Oregon and Colorado. It provides real-time live and online auctions, allowing government entities to quickly, inexpensively and reliably dispose of surplus supplies and equipment. It also helps increase the number

and amount of bids.

MANUFACTURING

Raytheon Missile Systems gets \$25.4 million from Air Force

Raytheon Missile Systems has been awarded an additional \$25.4 million cost-plus contract by the U.S. Air Force as part of its system demonstration development contract for the AMRAAM AIM-120D missile. The contract is administered through the Headquarters of the 328th Armament Systems Group at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

FINANCIAL

Alliance Bank of Arizona reaches new loan and asset milestones

After just over three years in operation in Tucson and Phoenix, Alliance Bank of Arizona reports it had more than \$499 million in loans and \$605 million in total assets, as of June 30.

The numbers represent a \$133 million increase in assets over the last 12 months, fueled by a \$187 million increase in loans. Alliance bank of Arizona is a subsidiary of Western Alliance Bancorporation, which also operates banks in Las Vegas and Reno, Nev., and San Diego.

Alliance has three locations in Tucson: 4703 E. Camp Lowell Drive; 1 S. Church Ave., Suite 950; and 200 S. Craycroft Road.

Wells Fargo introduces 40-year mortgages

Wells Fargo announced last week it is launching a 40-year fixed rate mortgage it says will help homebuyers get smaller monthly payments without the risks associated with interest-only loans or Option ARMs.

Interest rates on a 40-year mortgage are expected to be about a quarter-point higher than rates on the traditional 30-year loan, but the longer term results in lower monthly payments. Additionally, Wells Fargo said a 40-year fixed-rate mortgage may be appealing to first-time homebuyers, consumers in high-cost markets, real estate investors and buyers on fixed incomes because its fixed-rate gives buyers protection from rising interest rates.

MINING

ASARCO restarts smelter in Hayden

ASARCO announced last week it has successfully restarted its copper smelter in Hayden, following a five-week shutdown as a result of a roof collapse.

On June 17, the sheet metal roof on a building housing two anode furnaces partially collapsed. No one was injured and the flash furnace, anode furnaces and converters were not affected. Over the past five weeks, crews removed the debris and reinforced support columns for the overhead cranes.

Company officials said the anode furnace area will operate without a roof pending construction of a new one, which will start late this year but the major work will be done during the smelter's scheduled maintenance shutdown in January.

GOVERNMENT

ADEQ again offers state aid for abandoned tank removal

The Arizona Department of Economic Quality is once again inviting counties and small municipalities to apply for help in removal and clean up efforts of abandoned underground storage tanks.

Established in 2001, funds from the County and Municipal Tank Closure Program are available to communities of fewer than 15,000 people and unincorporated areas. Private property owners with abandoned tanks in eligible areas can also receive assistance by contacting their local government. For more information, go online at www.azdeq.gov.

POLITICS

Inside Tucson Business editor to moderate Congressional forum

David Hatfield, editor of Inside Tucson Business, will be the moderator of a forum Wednesday (Aug. 2) featuring the candidates for the Congressional District 8 seat being given up this year by Jim Kolbe.

The forum, sponsored by the National Federation of Independent Business, will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Association of Tucson Realtors offices, 2445 N. Tucson Blvd. It is free and open to all small-business owners. RSVP to Kim Noble at kim.noble@nfib.org or call toll-free to 1-866-476-6332.

Nine candidates so far are confirmed participants: Democrats Jeff Latas, William Johnson, Alex Rodriguez, Francine Schacter and Patty Weiss; and Republicans Frank Antenori, Randy Graf, Steve Huffman and Mike Jenkins.

Northern Pima Chamber offers legislature candidate choices

The Northern Pima Chamber of Commerce has endorsed two incumbents and three challengers for the Sept. 12 primary election for the Arizona Legislature from Districts 25 and 26.

The endorsements are:

- District 25, west of Interstate 10 in northwest Tucson and western Pima County n House of Representatives: Incumbent Jennifer Burns and challenger Gail Griffin, Sierra Vista, both Republicans.**
- District 26, northwest Tucson north of River Road between Interstate 10 and North Craycroft Road n House of Representatives: Lisa Lovallo and Carol Somers, both Republican challengers; Senate: Toni Hellon, Republican incumbent.**

Endorsements were made only in contested races in the primary election. A candidate evaluation committee interviewed the candidates and selected those it said are the best choices to represent the business community in northern Pima County.

EDUCATION

Tucson area Rose Academies get system-wide accreditation

The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvements has accredited Tucson's three Rose Academies: Canyon Rose, 2401 S. Wilmot Road; Desert Rose, 20 W. Fort Lowell Road; and Mountain Rose, 3686 W. Orange Grove Road.

Founded in 1895, the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement accredits more than 9,000 public and private schools in 19 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide.

Nogales teachers visit Tucson to discuss language programs

Ten teachers from Nogales, Sonora, who are educating Mexican children in English were in Tucson this week meeting with educators to discuss successful cross-border immersion language programs.

The meetings are in cooperation with the University of Arizona, International School of Tucson and the Center for English as a Second Language.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Tucson unemployment goes higher in latest state report

Tucson's unemployment rate remained low, at 4.4 percent, in June but that was up from 3.9 percent in May. The increase was tied mostly to a statewide trend of seasonal layoffs, according to the latest report from the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Overall Arizona's jobless rate increased only marginally, from 4.2 percent in May to 4.4 percent in June, buoyed by a 4.7 percent increase in payroll employment.

NONPROFITS

eegee's coupons raise \$90,000 to support Pio Decimo Center

A month-long June promotion at eegee's 21 Tucson area restaurants raised \$90,000 for the Pio Decimo Center's work in the Barrio Santa Rosa.

Ed Irving, president of eegee's, presented the check earlier this month to Joyce Walker, executive director of the Pio Decimo Center.

This is the 14th year for the eegee's fundraiser, which supports community nonprofits through the

sale of \$5 coupon cards. The program has raised \$750,000 over the years. Previous recipients include the Beacon Foundation, Primavera Builders, Community Food Bank of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Humane Society of Tucson, Jewish Family & Children's Services, Pima Community College Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Tucson and the Southern Arizona chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Central Arizona Projects gives grants to three Tucson groups

Three Tucson area organizations were among 10 nonprofits in Pima, Pinal and Maricopa counties to receive spring round grants from the Central Arizona Project.

The local recipients are:

- \$3,000 to the Pima Arts Council's River of Words youth poetry and art contest, to be held in February.**
- \$2,500 to La Pilita Museum, 420 S. Main Ave., to reformat a portion of the children's education program.**
- \$1,000 to the Sonoran Sea Aquarium to develop an educational program about Arizona's rivers at their courses to the Gulf of California. The Sonoran Sea Aquarium's education offices are located at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, 2021 N. Kinney Road.**

Employment workshops given Community Foundation grant

Workshops on getting and holding higher-paying non-traditional jobs, sponsored by the University of Arizona and The Haven, a residential treatment center for women, received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Offered to patients in recovery for drug and alcohol addiction, the program is intended to assist single parents in transitioning out of low-skill service jobs to occupations where they can earn sufficient income to support their families.

KUDOS

Mental health heroes sought for University of Arizona prize

Nominations are open for the annual Hero in Women's Mental Health Award, presented by the University of Arizona's Department of Psychiatry.

The award seeks to honor people who have made a pioneering effort or positive impact on treatment of postpartum depression, violence and trauma, anxiety disorders, stress or in the field of integrative medicine.

The deadline for submissions is Sept. 30. The award will be presented Jan. 13 during the Sixth Annual Women's Mental Health Symposium, co-sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry with the university's College of Medicine. Information about the nominations is available by calling (520) 626-1392 or go online at www.psychiatry.arizona.edu.

EVENTS

Oro Valley archeological site open for tours through Sept. 8

Honey Bee Village, a large Hohokam ball court community that is over 1,000 years old, is on display through Sept. 8 during a series of public tours of the site.

Desert Archaeology is offering tours each Wednesday and Friday, beginning at 7:30 a.m., at Moore Road, east of Rancho Vistoso Boulevard.

Honey Bee Village is the largest of several similar projects intended to protect sites of historical value while work proceeds on adjacent commercial and residential construction.

The preservation project is cooperative partnership of Cañada Vistas Homes, Oro Valley, Pima County and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

AD2 Tucson plans to celebrate first year with baseball game

AD2 Tucson will celebrate its first anniversary with a "Grand Slam Event" Tuesday (Aug. 1) in the press box at the Tucson Sidewinders game against the Omaha Royals.

AD2 was created by the Tucson Advertising Federation to give younger members a forum. Membership in AD2 is open to advertising and media professionals in Southern Arizona. Both organizations are local affiliates of the American Advertising Federation.

The event at Tucson Electric Park, 2500 E. Ajo Way, starts at 6 p.m., with the first pitch of the game scheduled for 7 p.m. Admission to the AD2 event is \$15 per person, which includes a drink coupon and appetizers.

Women's Foundation director to speak at next WIT luncheon

Laura Penny, executive director of the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona, will discuss her organization at the next luncheon meeting of Women Impacting Tucson, Aug. 7 at the Manning House, 450 W. Paseo Redondo. Cost for the luncheon is \$30 per person. Reservations must be made by Thursday (Aug. 3) at (520) 770-0714.

Arizona association presents summit and golf tournament

The Arizona Association of Industries will host its 15th annual environmental summit and golf classic in a forum for business, government and community leaders concerned with emerging pollution and ecological issues, and technological advances.

This year's summit will be Aug. 9 and 10 at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort, 10000 N. Oracle Road, Oro Valley. The golf tournament will be Aug. 11 at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort, 2727 W. Club Drive.

Registration forms are available online at www.azind.org/events.

UA's Eller College will hear about aquatic conservation

Jacqueline King, a lecturer at the University of Cape Town in South Africa and an internationally recognized expert on rivers and streams, will give a lecture Aug. 9 on why conserving aquatic systems makes business sense.

The talk will be at 4 p.m. in Room 208 of McClelland Hall, 1130 E. Helen St., on the University of Arizona campus. It is jointly sponsored by the School of Public Administration and Policy in the UA's Eller College of Management; the UA's Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, Water Resources Research Center; Udall Center for the Study of Public Policy; UA's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' Department of Geography; Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology; and the office of U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva.

To register, call Cara Wallace at (520) 621-7965.

ASBA forum offered to assist in preparations for trade show

In the first of two "Lunch and Learn" sessions Aug. 10, the Arizona Small Business Association will offer guidance on how to prepare for the ASBA's planned November trade show and holiday expo.

Marketing consultant Wendy Oden will discuss ways for maximizing trade show marketing and offer a "top 10 list of marketing mistakes" and talk about how to avoid them.

The cost is \$6 for members or \$8 for non-members and includes a sandwich lunch and a copy of "Five Trade Show Rut Busters," a workbook for creating interest and traffic. The presentation will be noon to 1:30 p.m. at the ASBA's Crossroads Festival Center office, at 4811 E. Grant Road, Suite 262. Make reservations by calling (520) 327-0222 or by e-mailing infotucson@asba.com.

Baby fair again offers Tucson showcase for family services

The 17th year Baby Fair will take place Aug. 12 in the grand ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave.

The free fair is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature baby products, educational materials, medical services and recreational activities for infants and families.

This year's sponsors are: Tucson Medical Center, Carondelet Health Network, University Medical Center, Safeway, Tobacco-Free Ways, Trico Electric Cooperative, McGruff Safe Kids, Watson Chevrolet, Babies R Us and radio station MixFM KMXZ 94.9-FM.

Three-day conference reviews rural development strategies

Arizona Department of Commerce and the Arizona Association for Economic Development will come together Aug. 16-18 for the 32nd annual Governor's Rural Development Conference in Flagstaff.

More than 600 participants are expected to attend the event, hosted by the du Bois Center at Northern Arizona University, which brings together representatives from Arizona's rural communities and state agencies to discuss cooperative strategies for growth.

For registration information call Sue Dabbs-Preciado at the Arizona Department of Commerce at (602) 771-1216 or go online at www.ruraldevelopmentconference.com.

Tucson Chamber offers pair of member mixers in August

The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce has two events slated for Aug. 24: one to introduce the University of Arizona's 2006 football team and an after-work mixer featuring a Blues Brothers theme.

The Wildcats' football team will be introduced at a noon luncheon in the grand ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave. Compass Bank is luncheon sponsor. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 for tables of 10. For reservations, call Lizet Torres at (520) 792-2250, ext. 137.

Later the same day, from 4:45 p.m. to 5:10 p.m., the chamber presents its regular Business After Hours mixer, which this time features a Blues Brothers theme. The mixer, at the chamber's offices at 465 W. St. Mary's Road, is \$5 per person. For reservations, call Tammy Jensen at (520) 792-2250, ext. 138.

Douglas joins Cochise College to present area economic data

Robert Carreira, director of the Cochise College Center for Economic Research, Karen Nicodemus, president of the college, and Victor Gonzalez, economic development director for the City of Douglas, will analyze economic development trends in southern Cochise County at a breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sept. 7 at the Douglas Visitors Center, 345 16th St., Douglas. To make reservations, call the City of Douglas Economic Development Office at (520) 805-4047.

SAIAT breakfast seminar looks at project management

Gerry Wilhelm, vice president and general manager of DVA Training, will discuss the teams, tools and techniques needed for effective project management at a breakfast meeting Sept. 13, put on by the Southern Arizona Institute for Advanced Training.

The meeting will be from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the SAIAT offices, 3000 E. Valencia Road, Suite 190. The cost is \$8 per person. To register, call Jennifer Sborov at (520) 573-7399.

Small Business Association offers goal planning workshop

Activating a business plan through 90-day goals is the topic of a day-long workshop to be presented by the Arizona Small Business Association.

Business coaches from Action International, a business consulting service, will lead the workshop, which takes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 15 in the ASBA's Crossroads Festival Center offices at 4811 E. Grant Road, Suite 261. Cost is \$195 and includes lunch, snacks and instruction materials.

For reservations, call Ivy at (520) 327-0222 or e-mail infotucson@asba.com.

YWCA presents 18th annual women's leadership conference

The YWCA of Tucson's 18th annual Women's Leadership Conference Oct. 6 will feature Helen Zia, former editor of Ms Magazine, and motivational speaker Lauve Metcalfe.

Zia is to talk on making a difference and Metcalfe's topic is how to become "witty, wise and wild."

The conference will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa, 3800 E. Sunrise Drive. Cost is \$125 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. For information, go online at www.ywcatucson.org or call (520) 884-7810.

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