

# YELLOW SHEET REPORT

## ·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

### **TRUMP'S CIRCUS COMES TO THE FAIRGROUNDS**

After saying he wouldn't publicly appear with Trump at his Phoenix rally, Ducey joined the president on stage, alongside Biggs, Gosar, Lesko, Bowers, Fann, AZGOP chair Kelli Ward and Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer. In his introduction of Ducey before asking him to speak, Trump noted that Ducey won re-election by a wide margin. "It wasn't even a contest," Trump said. "And I say – you know, I'm very competitive – I want to beat him, I want to – would you please get out to the polls so we can beat him? But he's tough to beat." His introduction of Lesko was also odd, yet flattering. "A big big star... She became this monster star. She looked with such indignation at the other side, such disgust, Debbie Lesko," Trump told the crowd. McSally also got a personalized introduction and a quick solo speaking gig, with Trump saying she is "helped us so much with the impeachment hoax, she didn't wobble one bit." He said she's "tough as hell" and has his "total support and endorsement." Ducey spoke for about a minute. He vowed to keep Arizona's Republican majority and re-elect Trump and thanked him for the work he's done on "the cause of life," the economy, reducing regulations and nominating more Republicans to the Supreme Court. The Ninth Floor initially said Ducey wouldn't speak on stage but would ride along in the motorcade and attend the rally behind the scenes ([YS 2/19](#)). Asked what changed between Tuesday and Wednesday, Ducey Spokesman Patrick Ptak said, "The president invited him on stage... A formal speaking role was not anticipated."

### **WHEN THE PRESIDENT SHOWS UP WITH AN ENTOURAGE**



### **IT IS DEFINITELY WEIRD, E.J.**



Trump also brought up sanctuary cities and commended the state for its existing ban and positions on immigration at large, but failed to mention Ducey's proposal to enshrine a ban in the state Constitution. "Thankfully, Arizona has banned sanctuary cities. And with a Republican majority in Congress, we will ban them in every state in America," he said. Trump is right. The remnants of SB1070 already ban sanctuary jurisdictions. Ptak said while the Ninth Floor and White House staff "work closely" on different issues, he said

he didn't believe if staff, or if Ducey himself, asked Trump or his team to make a point of it. Trump's mention of it didn't surprise Ptak, though, since Trump frequently talks about sanctuary city policies, most recently in his State of the Union address. What's odd, as liberal *Arizona Republic* columnist E.J. Montini pointed out today, is that Trump praised the state's existing ban and didn't mention that Ducey is pushing to enshrine a ban in the Constitution. "Putting what amounts to 1070 back on the ballot is a way that Ducey and his Republican cohorts hope to get the very same voters who were going all frothy for Trump at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Wednesday to turn out on Election Day," Montini wrote ([LINK](#)). "And those very same voters were just told, by their hero, that the ban already exists. Kind of weird, right?"

**PERCEPTIONS ARE ALREADY CHANGING**

Pressure against Ducey’s proposal is mounting from local and national business leaders and politicians. On the same day of Trump’s visit, the Tucson City Council voted to oppose the legislation. Tucson Mayor Regina Romero said in a statement Wednesday “there is zero need” for it and said using the results of the city’s Prop 205 vote in November is “disingenuous to the intentions of the voters of Tucson.” “This ballot referral is 100% politically-motivated to bring out a voting bloc that the governing majority at the State Capital [sic] believes they need to be successful in 2020,” Romero said in the statement. “No amount of electoral success is worth the division that will be sewn throughout our communities if this initiative makes the ballot.” Democratic Presidential Candidate Elizabeth Warren recently tweeted that the “dangerous” legislation “would separate families, scapegoat immigrant communities, and pit Arizonans against each other” ([LINK](#)). The *Republic’s* editorial board condemned the policy this week, calling it an unnecessary political ploy to turn out Republican voters. “To the business leaders of Arizona, that noise you hear is the alarm bell we all missed 10 years ago,” the editorial board wrote ([LINK](#)). Rivero, meanwhile, said he will vote against Shope’s HCR2036 (sanctuary jurisdiction; prohibition; law enforcement) unless lawmakers come up with a holistic approach to solving the situation on the border. Rivero told our reporter that he wants broad-based immigration reform, acceptance of consular IDs, and in-state tuition for DACA students, among other things. Rivero said the sanctuary city legislation would have a lasting effect on Arizona’s relationship with Mexico. With Rivero off the table – at least provisionally – the referral is on life support.



**PAGING GLENN HAMER**

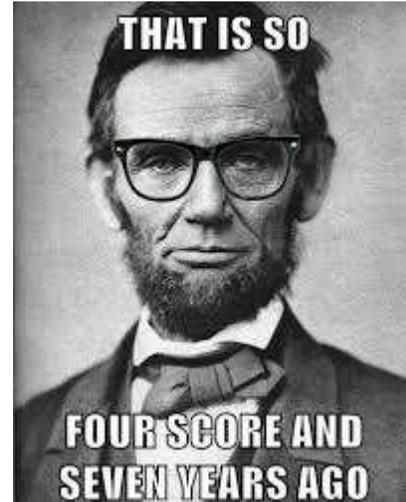


Fearing another black eye for the state, Latino community and business leaders, activists, and national politicians have taken notice of what some have dubbed Ducey’s SB1070. While the state’s largest business group, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has remained silent, Monica Villalobos, president and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, released a statement last week, calling the proposal a “painful reminder of a dark chapter in Arizona’s history” ([LINK](#)). Immigration advocacy groups, some of whom

protested outside the fairgrounds yesterday, see this as a pivotal moment and told our reporter they’re beginning to organize specifically around this issue and will rally often between now and November. Roberto Reveles, an organizer behind the statewide boycott of Arizona in response to SB1070, which cost the state more than \$140 million, according to one study ([LINK](#)), told our reporter that passing such a proposal could spark another boycott. “It’s unbelievable that they turned a blind eye to such recent history and this would certainly motivate the reaction from our community and should,” he said.

## **DUCEY ASKS FOR SANCTUARY FROM FURTHER QUESTIONS**

Ducey became visibly irritated and tried to change the subject multiple times when pressed about the sanctuary city proposal today. His call for a ballot measure is quickly turning into a discussion of SB1070 and how it affected the state. Ducey again cut off questions from reporters to clarify his intention. “We don’t want sanctuary cities in Arizona, we’re not going to import bad ideas from California, that’s it,” Ducey said. He also pushed back on the notion he spent his first six years in office beating back legislative efforts to further the law, rather, he said, he spent that time promoting the state and said its reputation and relations with Mexico “have never been better.” “I think what would hurt the state’s reputation is sanctuary cities, which people have tried to put on the ballot. The state’s reputation is just fine.” Asked if he is willing to let the state to endure another boycott because of the measure, as some have threatened, Ducey dodged again. “The economy is booming, and this was on the ballot in Tucson, it was widely rejected, and anything that goes forward would be up to the people,” Ducey said. “You’re living in the past.”



## **THEY DID PROMISE A BUDGET BY CROSSOVER WEEK**



Our reporter spotted Ducey Chief of Staff Daniel Scarpinato at the House today as Shope greeted him on the second floor lobby. Several key Republicans filtered in and out of the chamber during COW today. At any given time, nearly half of the caucus was hiding out in the member’s lounge. Scarpinato wouldn’t say what his meetings covered, but it’s fair to say that a budget seems to be on the horizon. One senior House Republican said they’re “working on it” but not to expect budget news today. In the Senate, Fann ceded her gavel to Gray and spent much of the floor session sequestered in her office with a rotating cast of Republican lawmakers and majority staff. And while Fann told our reporter yesterday a legislative budget was about “95 percent there,” rank-and-file

Republican senators told our reporter they didn’t think one was ready just yet.

## **IT’S THE MUELLER PROBE ALL OVER AGAIN**

The House hired a hyper-partisan liberal to conduct its investigation into Cook, and GOP lawmakers shouldn’t believe any report he produces, Attorney Tim La Sota told our reporter. La Sota dug up a pair of opinions the investigator, Ballard Spahr attorney and former federal prosecutor Mark Kokanovich, penned, including an op-ed he authored with other federal prosecutors criticizing Rachel Mitchell for her role in the confirmation of US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh ([LINK](#)), and a letter he co-signed, again with other former prosecutors, saying Trump should be prosecuted over the Mueller report ([LINK](#)). La Sota told our reporter he had no dog in the fight, and isn’t working for Cook or anyone else involved, but was simply “stunned” that the House would hire a liberal to investigate a Republican. “Let’s say you’re one of Representative Cook’s Republican colleagues and you’re presented a report from somebody who has a history of saying untrue partisan things about Republicans, to me it wouldn’t carry a lot of weight. In fact, it wouldn’t carry any weight,” he said. “He’s shown himself to be first and foremost an ultra-partisan Democrat.” While the Maricopa County Recorder’s Office couldn’t immediately provide his party registration status, state campaign finance reports show Kokanovich has only contributed to Democratic campaigns, including to Hobbs, Longdon, Dem gubernatorial nominee David Garcia and Dem AG nominee

January Contreras in 2018. House spokesman Andrew Wilder told our reporter the House decided to hire Kokanovich after the “exemplary” work he and attorney Joe Kanefield did “as part of the bipartisan outside counsel team for the Ethics Committee during the Stringer investigation.” Wilder didn’t answer questions about whether the House was aware of the printed opinions, or whether the articles changed anyone’s view of the investigator, but said the investigating team is bipartisan, just like the Ethics Committee. Kokanovich declined to comment, saying the House hadn’t authorized him to talk to the press.

## **SPEAKING OF INVESTIGATORS**

The House is still paying the investigator who wrote the report on sexual harassment at the Capitol – but now he’s representing Bowers and a former staffer for depositions in the Ugenti-Rita v. Shooter case. Public records show that on Dec. 3, 2019, the House signed two agreements to have Craig Morgan, a lawyer at Sherman & Howard, represent Bowers and former Director of Operations Gina Kash. Morgan was the lead author on the report that condemned former lawmaker Don Shooter, but suspiciously brushed aside the allegations against Ugenti-Rita. OpenBooks shows the House has paid the firm \$268,000 since hiring Morgan to conduct the investigation, including more than \$10,000 since October. House spokesman Andrew Wilder said the House has retained Morgan “for the limited purpose of representing Speaker Bowers and Gina Kash in their respective depositions in the ongoing Shooter/Ugenti-Rita litigation.” The two have not yet been deposed.

## ·PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS CLIPS·

### **NEW: Arizona Projected To Add 159,000 New Jobs Over The Next Two Years**

**PHOENIX** — Arizona’s booming economy will add more than 159,000 new jobs over the next two years, according to new projections by the [Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity](#). Arizona will continue to be a national economic powerhouse; just last month, Arizona ranked second in the nation for job growth from December 2018 to December 2019.

“Arizona continues to add jobs at one of the fastest paces in the nation, with more on the way,” said Governor Ducey. “Our friendly business environment, progress eliminating red tape and welcoming atmosphere continue to attract more opportunity and investment to our state. My thanks to all the business leaders, innovators and hardworking employees who continue to grow jobs in Arizona.”

The Office of Economic Opportunity projects that Arizona will add 159,473 new jobs between the third quarter of 2019 and the second quarter of 2021. The construction, finance and manufacturing sectors will experience the most significant annualized growth.

According to the Office of Economic Opportunity, annualized growth and job gains in the following sectors are projected to be:

- Construction: 6.7 percent, with 11,941 new jobs added
- Financial Activities: 3.3 percent, with 7,513 new jobs added
- Manufacturing: 3.1 percent, with 5,554 new jobs added

- Education And Health Services: 2.9 percent, with 18,956 new jobs added
- Professional And Business Services: 2.7 percent, with 12,139 new jobs added
- Trade, Transportation And Utilities: 2 percent, with 10,881 new jobs added
- Leisure And Hospitality: 1.5 percent, with 5,481 new jobs added
- Information: 1.4 percent, with 710 new jobs added

During that time period, Maricopa County is projected to experience 3 percent annualized growth with 66,324 new jobs and Yavapai County is projected to experience 2.1 percent annualized growth with 1,519 new jobs

## Forged Under Fire Part 2: House Democrats release conclusion of gun violence docuseries

PHOENIX – In concert with Moms Demand Action Day at the Arizona Legislature House Democrats today released Part Two of *Forged Under Fire*, a two-episode docuseries illustrating how the epidemic of gun violence has personally impacted three lawmakers and spurred them to action.

The Arizona House Democratic Caucus is home to Representatives Jennifer Longdon, Daniel Hernandez, Jr. and Assistant Democratic Leader Dr. Randall Friese, three of the nation's leading voices for common-sense reform. All three were inspired to serve after their lives were indelibly altered because of gun violence. *Forged Under Fire* shares their stories in an effort to help Arizona's stalled debate on gun violence move forward.

Part [two](#) can be seen here.

Part [one](#) can be seen here.

A two-minute trailer for the docuseries was released on Jan. 16 and can be seen [here](#).

The intertwining stories focus on:

- Rep. Longdon, who on Nov. 15, 2004, was paralyzed in a drive-by shooting in Phoenix. Longdon and her then-fiancé were both shot while out on a drive for dinner. The shooter has never been identified and brought to justice.
- Rep. Hernandez, who on January 8, 2011, was working at a Congress on Your Corner event in Tucson on the first day of his internship with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords when she was shot in the head by a gunman. That mass shooting took the lives of six people and wounded 13. Hernandez ran toward the gunfire, performing first aid and staying with the Congresswoman at the scene and throughout her transport to the hospital.
- And Dr. Friese, who on the day of the Tucson shooting was finishing a shift as a trauma surgeon at the University of Arizona Medical Center, where he served as an Associate Professor of Surgery. Friese coordinated the hospital's response to the mass-casualty shooting and treated 9-year-old Christina Taylor-Green, who succumbed to her wounds, and then Congresswoman Giffords when she arrived minutes later.

These representatives had their lives irrevocably altered by gun violence and have worked as advocates and now lawmakers to pass common-sense legislation to address gun violence in Arizona. Their bills introduced in the 2020 legislative session include:

<a href="#">HB2321</a>	severe threat order of protection
<a href="#">HB2322</a>	firearm sales; transfers; background checks
<a href="#">HB2323</a>	patient information; gun safety; appropriation
<a href="#">HB2324</a>	prohibited weapon; bump-fire device; accessory
<a href="#">HB2325</a>	firearm sales; permit verification; requirements
<a href="#">HCR2018</a>	firearm sales; transfers; background checks
<a href="#">HB2543</a>	firearm transfers; domestic violence offenses.
<a href="#">HB2544</a>	firearm; ammunition storage; civil penalty
<a href="#">HB2545</a>	firearm dealers; firearm transfers; requirements
<a href="#">HB2546</a>	firearm sales; transfers; background checks

*Forged Under Fire* was produced by Rocky Mountain Emmy-award winning documentary filmmaker Bailey Netsch, who serves as Deputy Communications Director for the House Democratic Caucus. It can be found on [arizonahousedemocrats.com](http://arizonahousedemocrats.com), YouTube and on the Arizona House Democrats Instagram page, @azhousedems.

## Former Vice Principal of Closed Goodyear Charter School Pleads Guilty to Theft

**PHOENIX** – Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced Joann Vega pleaded guilty Tuesday morning to two counts of theft, class two felonies, for her role in reporting false student enrollment at the Bradley Academy of Excellence a.k.a. Discovery Creemos Academy. The false reporting resulted in a loss of approximately \$2.5 million in taxpayer funds mostly provided by the Arizona Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture also overfunded the school as a result of the fraud.

[Daniel Hughes](#), the Chairman and Director of the Bradley Academy, Harold Cadiz, the Principal, and Joann Vega, the Vice Principal, were all concerned with falling enrollment numbers due to student attrition. To keep the doors open, the three agreed to provide false student profiles to the State to replace students who left the school to maintain funding levels. The investigation discovered that during the 2016-2017 academic year, Bradley Academy reported approximately 191 fake students to the Arizona Department of Education. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the number of fake students reported increased to approximately 453.

The Bradley Academy closed abruptly in January of 2018, ahead of a random audit from the Arizona Department of Education. After being provided fraudulent student data, Vega entered the information into the Arizona Department of Education's Synergy program for enrolled students.

Under the plea agreement, Vega may be sentenced to seven years of supervised probation or between 2 and 8.75 years in prison, followed by a period of supervised probation up to seven years. Vega is the third and final individual to plead guilty for her role in this fraud. A sentencing hearing for Vega is scheduled for April 24, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

On February, 14, 2020, [Harold Cadiz](#), pleaded guilty to two counts of theft and will be sentenced on March 27, 2020. Cadiz created hundreds of fraudulent documents to support fake students including photoshopped parents' driver licenses, student birth certificates, and student shot records. Cadiz faces between 3 and 12.5 years in prison, followed by a period of supervised probation up to seven years.

In November of 2018, [Daniel Hughes](#) pleaded guilty to conspiracy and theft. Hughes pleaded guilty to one count of Conspiracy, a class 2 felony, and faces between 3 and 12.5 years in prison. A sentencing date for Hughes has not been scheduled yet.

The defendants will be ordered to pay in restitution \$2.2 million to the State of Arizona, \$91,000 to U.S. Department of Education, and \$230,000 to U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Assistant Attorney General Mary Harriss is prosecuting this case.

Copy of plea agreement [here](#).

No booking photographs are available.

“QUOTE  
OF THE DAY”

“You’re living in the past.”

- *Ducey, when asked about the comparisons  
between his sanctuary city proposal and SB1070*