

Mohave DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE County NEWSLETTER



By Tami Ursenbach

Dear Mohave County Residents,

As Economic Development Director for Mohave County, I'm proud to highlight an economy that stands on a foundation of diversity and steady growth. Mohave County's labor force recently supported roughly 75,900 jobs across key sectors, with Retail Trade ($\approx 10,585$ jobs), Health Care & Social Assistance ($\approx 10,442$), and Accommodation & Food Services ($\approx 7,179$) among the largest employers in 2023. These figures underscore the importance of both service industries and consumer demand in driving local employment.

Despite broader national fluctuations, Mohave's economy continues to build momentum. Real Gross Domestic Product for the county was approximately \$8.8 billion in 2023, ranking seventh among Arizona's 15 counties, and grew about 4.3 % year-over-year, outpacing the state's overall GDP growth rate. Population growth also fuels economic opportunity: the county's population is estimated at around 223,000 in 2023, with projections suggesting it could exceed 250,000 by 2030.

The quality of life and cost of living here continue to attract families and retirees alike, though challenges remain. The median household income in Mohave County was about \$55,800, notably lower than both the state and national figures, reflecting a local workforce that still leans toward moderate-wage jobs. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate measured near 5.5 % in late 2025, above some Arizona counterparts, highlighting ongoing opportunities to expand high-quality employment.

Looking ahead, our strategy is rooted in building on these solid economic foundations. We are actively supporting workforce training initiatives, business expansion, and attracting employers in higher-wage sectors such as advanced manufacturing, logistics, and energy. By connecting local talent with future-oriented industries, we aim to elevate household earnings while preserving the strong community character that makes Mohave County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



From the Desk
of Michelle



February Is Planning Season for Mohave County's Tourism Businesses

By Michelle Loeber

For Mohave County's tourism-based businesses, February is the critical planning window before spring travel and vacation season arrives. As visitors plan spring break and early summer trips, now is the time to prepare for increased demand across lodging, attractions, restaurants, retail, and outdoor recreation.

Staffing and operations are a top priority. Hiring seasonal employees early, reviewing peak-day staffing needs, and cross-training employees ensures businesses are ready for busy weekends and extended hours. Proper preparation can prevent service disruptions and help maintain a high-quality visitor experience throughout the season.

Visitor readiness is equally important. Keeping online listings, websites, and reservation systems up to date, refreshing signage and wayfinding, and ensuring accurate hours of operation all help travelers plan their visits and avoid frustration. A seamless experience encourages longer stays and repeat visits.

Marketing and promotion efforts should be aligned with spring break and early summer travel trends. Launching seasonal promotions, coordinating with local events and regional tourism campaigns, and partnering with nearby hotels, attractions, or outfitters can extend visibility and create package opportunities that attract more visitors.

Finally, consider ways to enhance the visitor experience and capture additional revenue. Offering limited-time spring activities, highlighting outdoor adventures, heritage sites, Route 66 attractions, or bundled experiences encourages guests to explore more of what Mohave County has to offer and makes their visit memorable. For example, Grand Canyon West now offers an All Access Pass, bundling multiple amenities into one value ticket, giving visitors a convenient and cost-effective way to experience the Skywalk, zip line, cultural exhibits, walking trails, unlimited arcade, and more.

Mohave County Economic Development encourages tourism businesses to use February as a time to assess needs, plan strategically, and connect with available resources. Early preparation sets the stage for a successful spring season and ensures that visitors leave with a positive impression, ready to return.



Home is Where the Heart Is



Mohave County is a place people are proud to call home—and for good reason. It's where neighbors still wave, families put down roots, and wide-open spaces remind us why we chose to live here in the first place. From river communities to mountain towns and desert neighborhoods, Mohave County offers a quality of life that's hard to find elsewhere. That same sense of community and pride is also what draws new businesses here—not because of buzzwords or trends, but because people care about this place and the future they're building together.

As we mark Presidents Day this month, it's a good moment to reflect on the values that helped shape our country: independence, innovation, and the belief that strong communities create strong futures. Those values are alive in Mohave County. Residents show up for local events, support small businesses, and take pride in creating opportunities close to home so the next generation doesn't have to leave to succeed. When companies choose Mohave County, they're choosing more than a location—they're joining a community that believes in hard work and looking out for one another.

And with Valentine's Day around the corner, it's in love with Mohave County. Whether it's the unmatched outdoor recreation, the slower pace, or the people who make this place special, there's a lasting connection here. Businesses that relocate don't just set up shop—they become part of the fabric of our towns. Mohave County continues to grow in a way that reflects who we are: proud, welcoming, and committed to preserving the place we're happy to call home.

Top 10 States for Population Growth

St Louis Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis

Rank	Geographic Area	April 1, 2020 (Estimates Base)	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2025	Percent Growth
1	South Carolina	5,118,250	5,490,316	5,570,274	1.5%
2	Idaho	1,839,123	2,000,872	2,029,733	1.4%
3	North Carolina	10,441,392	11,052,061	11,197,968	1.3%
4	Texas	29,149,498	31,318,578	31,709,821	1.2%
5	Utah	3,271,601	3,502,983	3,538,904	1.0%
6	Delaware	989,950	1,050,123	1,059,952	0.9%
7	Washington	7,707,519	7,927,958	8,001,020	0.9%
8	Arizona	7,158,104	7,556,424	7,623,818	0.9%
9	Nevada	3,105,593	3,253,543	3,282,188	0.9%
10	Tennessee	6,912,319	7,251,291	7,315,076	0.9%



Free!

FEBRUARY 2026



FOOD ENTREPRENEUR AND FOOD MANAGER CERTIFICATION COURSE

This is a required two-day, in-person training program that guides participants through the full process of starting and growing a sustainable business within their community.

Attendance on both days is mandatory. On the second day, participants will complete the ServSafe National Food Manager Certification exam to earn their credential.

Limited to 20
students



UPCOMING CLASSES

LAPTOP RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED

LAKE HAVASU CITY

Food Entrepreneur Course

February 18th 8am-5pm

Food Manager Course

February 19th 8am-5pm

KAWS Kitchen

2144 McCulloch Blvd N

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

REGISTER NOW



<https://www.wmedev.org/nagjn-class-sign-up>



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Collaboration and Unity

Strong communities are built when people choose collaboration over division and unity over isolation. Working together allows communities to draw on diverse perspectives, skills, and experiences, turning individual strengths into shared solutions. When residents, organizations, and leaders align around common goals, trust grows, challenges become more manageable, and progress accelerates. Unity does not mean uniformity—it means respecting differences while committing to the collective good. By collaborating with openness and purpose, communities create resilience, foster innovation, and build a future where everyone has a stake in shared success.



Desert Ridge Stepping Stones Daycare and Preschool

Kathy Roddy and Tami Ursenbach

January 2026

<https://youtu.be/d6YKI3llzys>

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated in the United States on the third Monday of February. Officially recognized by the federal government as Washington's Birthday, it was originally established in 1879 to honor the nation's first president, George Washington, on his actual birth date of February 22. In 1971, the [Uniform Monday Holiday Act](#) moved the observance to a Monday to provide workers with more three-day weekends, eventually leading to the popular adoption of the name "Presidents' Day".

Today, the holiday is celebrated not only to honor Washington's legacy but also to recognize Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday falls on February 12, and the contributions of all individuals who have served as U.S. President. It serves as a day for patriotic remembrance, often marked by public ceremonies, historical reenactments, and educational programs focusing on the achievements of past leaders who shaped the nation.



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**NORTHERN
ARIZONA
GOOD JOBS
NETWORK**



MANUFACTURING ROUNDTABLE

**GUEST SPEAKER: Terri Curtis,
Economic Development Project
Manager, City of Kingman**
*Join us for an update from Terri Curtis on
key aviation and infrastructure
initiatives shaping Kingman's economic
future. Terri will provide insight into the
ADOT Flying Fortress project, the current
status of the FAA Industrial Park land
release, highlighting opportunities,
timelines, and regional impacts and
Industrial Park road construction.*



FEBRUARY 12, 2026
3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TRAINING CENTER (AMTC)

Advanced Manufacturing
Training Center, 2nd Floor
4415 North Windrose Lane
Kingman, AZ 86401

CONTACT

RSVP

Tyra Cheney

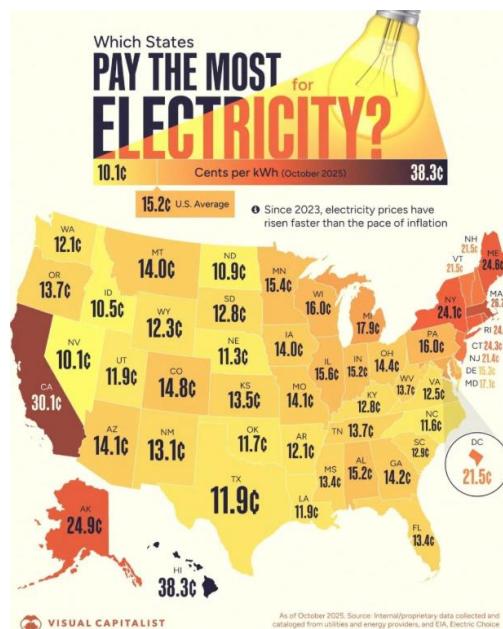
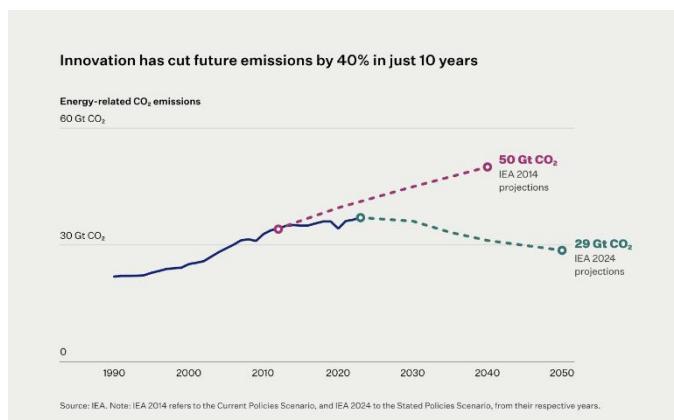
928-757-0917

cheneT@mohave.gov

Less Emissions than Predicted

Over the past several years, advancements in new technology have played a critical role in lowering emissions while supporting economic growth and improved quality of life. Innovations such as cleaner energy systems, more efficient manufacturing processes, advanced transportation technologies, and smarter infrastructure have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions compared to previous decades. These technologies allow businesses and communities to do more with less—using energy more efficiently, cutting waste, and reducing environmental impact without sacrificing productivity or reliability. Investing in and adopting modern technologies not only helps protect air quality and public health, but also positions communities and industries for long-term sustainability, resilience, and responsible growth.

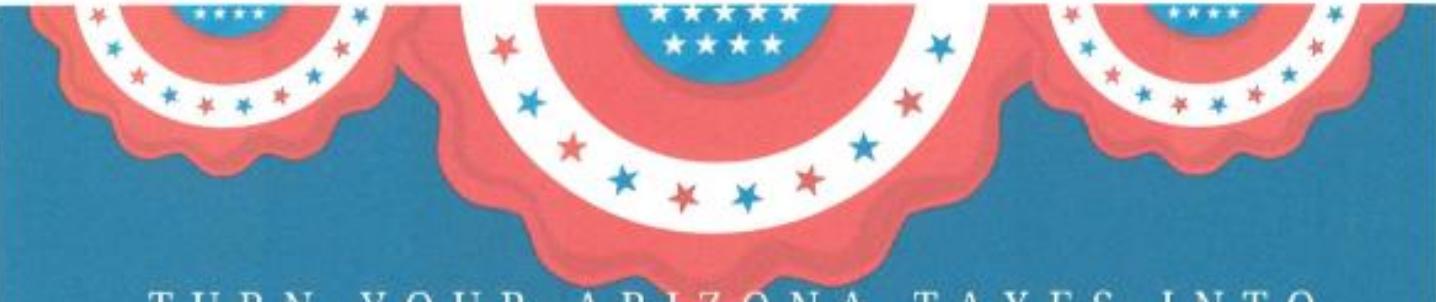
Dane Carlson in his Econ Dev Show newsletter stated: Innovation has dramatically reshaped global emissions forecasts. According to the International Energy Agency, projections made in 2014 expected energy-related CO₂ emissions to rise to 50 gigatons by 2050. But thanks to rapid advances in clean energy, efficiency, and technology adoption, the 2024 projections now estimate just 29 gigatons: a 40% cut in only a decade. This shift underscores how policy, innovation, and private-sector investment are bending the emissions curve faster than once thought possible:



Information from Dane Carlson, Econ Dev Show

“Energy efficiency isn’t just about saving money – it’s about building a sustainable future for our grandchildren.”





TURN YOUR ARIZONA TAXES INTO HOPE FOR VETERANS

 Give Hope, Claim Your 2025 Arizona Tax Credit 

Every day, Arizona veterans face challenges that no hero should endure—homelessness, transportation, access to resources, and the struggle to rebuild their lives after service.
You can change that.

Through the Arizona Qualified Charitable Organization (QCO) Tax Credit, your donation gives veterans a safe place to heal, regain dignity, and find their path forward. Best of all, it won't cost you a penny.

For 2025, the Arizona tax credit limits are:

 **\$495 for single taxpayers** 
 **\$987 for married filing jointly** 

That's money you already owe in state taxes—redirected to directly help veterans in need.

When you give, you're not just making a donation...
You're providing shelter.
You're restoring hope.



You're standing shoulder to shoulder with those who once stood for us.

Please consult your tax professional for details. Our QCO Code is 21017

Javc.org/donations



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

IRS UPDATE

One, Big, Beautiful Bill: How to take advantage of no tax on tips and overtime

The [One, Big, Beautiful Bill](#) has a significant effect on federal taxes, credits and deductions. Millions of taxpayers reported earning tips and overtime on their tax returns, many of them are veterans and people working in lower wage jobs. This relief will impact most of these taxpayers and they can start taking advantage of the deduction this filing season.

No tax on tips

Employees and self-employed individuals may deduct qualified tips received in [certain qualified occupations](#), such as wait staff, bartenders, salon workers, personal trainers, gig economy workers, and many more who customarily and regularly receive tips might qualify.

Even better, tips earned on or before December 31, 2024, and are reported on a [Form W-2](#), Form 1099, or other statement furnished to the individual or reported directly by the individual on [Form 4137](#) can be deducted.

- “Qualified tips” are voluntary cash or charged tips received from customers or through tip sharing
- Maximum annual deduction is \$25,000; for self-employed, deduction may not exceed individual’s net income, without regard to this deduction, from the trade or business in which the tips were earned
- The deduction phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$150,000 (\$300,000 for joint filers)

To see examples of how “no tax on tips” is calculated, taxpayers should review this [news release](#).

No Tax on Overtime

Individuals who receive qualified overtime compensation may deduct the pay that exceeds their regular rate of pay, generally, the “half” portion of “time-and-a-half” compensation, that’s required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and reported on a Form W-2, Form 1099, or other specified statement furnished to the individual.

- Maximum annual deduction is \$12,500 (\$25,000 for joint filers)
- Deduction phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$150,000 (\$300,000 for joint filers)
- The deduction is available for both itemizing and non-itemizing taxpayers

More information

- [Frequently asked questions about the new deduction for qualified overtime compensation](#)

FREE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Local First Arizona received a grant for the 5 northern counties. Part of the grant is providing FREE training for businesses.

- Small businesses can receive training to understand how to grow their company.
- Manufacturing and Construction companies can receive FREE online training including safety, HVAC, welding, plumbing, etc. Get the knowledge and then companies can provide hands-on training.

Also included are:

- Medical Assistants
- Small Engine Repair
- Food Managers Training

Contact Tyra Cheney
928-757-0917 office or
928-716-4977
chenet@mohave.gov

Graves Merchantile Spotlight



You never know what you are going to find at Graves Merchantile, located at 6th and Andy Devine in Kingman. No, Merchantile is not spelled incorrectly, it is a store of many different merchants, hence the name Merchantile. With nearly 50 merchants, there are no limits to the possibilities!

Graves Merchantile opened a little over a year ago by Katie Graves, who is the daughter of Helen (Carrera) and Elmer Graves. Some of you may remember that Helen ran the downtown post office and Elmer ran Graves Chevron. In fact, the Graves / Carrera families have been in the Kingman, Oatman, and Hackberry areas since the late 1800's!

Katie is a former Miss Mohave County and is the current Miss Legend USA Classic Elite pageant title holder, who uses her title to represent and help heal stroke warriors following her own recovery from a massive stroke. Katie is a former SAG and AFTRA television and film actress, was an opening singer for Wayne Newton and John Davidson in Las Vegas and made many women beautiful through her work as a national make-up artist. Katie is married to Larry Kubes, who has his own mechanical and electrical engineering and product development business, including engine designs that have won automotive racing championships over such companies as Ferrari.

At Graves Merchantile, up-level antiques and curiosities, artisan crafted items, and tasteful new items adorn the shelves and tables. Many of the merchants update their offerings weekly, so there is always something new to see. Some featured items currently in the store include Hualapai Kingman Blue Turquoise jewelry, Route 66 and western artifacts, and designer handbags, clothes, and jewelry. The holiday decorations and offerings are always great to see! Drive by at night and check out the items and decorations in the windows! Gentlemen are not left out because the store makes an effort to keep artifacts and tools that guys always like and need, and the store is always looking for merchants with these types of items.

Merchants at Graves Merchantile offer some great prices on their items, since they don't have to share commissions on the sale of items with the store, and Graves Merchantile embraces the shop local mantra.

Graves Merchantile is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 4pm in the winter and 12am to 6pm in the summer, or by appointment by calling Katie at 323-251-9290.



10 Ways Your Business Can Celebrate America 250



In 2026, the United States will mark **250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence**—a milestone known as *America 250*. For businesses, this is a unique opportunity to celebrate our nation's history while strengthening connections with employees, customers, and the community.

1. Highlight Local History

Share stories about your community's role in American history—through displays, social media posts, or short videos. Local pride pairs perfectly with a national celebration.

2. Support Veteran and Military Organizations

Partner with or donate to veteran-focused nonprofits, host appreciation events, or offer discounts to service members and their families.

3. Celebrate American-Made Products

Feature U.S.-made goods, suppliers, or services. Even service-based businesses can spotlight American craftsmanship and entrepreneurship.

4. Host a Community Event

Open houses, block parties, historical talks, or family-friendly celebrations help bring people together while positioning your business as a community leader.

5. Engage Employees in the Celebration

Encourage staff to participate through volunteer days, themed lunches, or internal contests tied to American history and values.

6. Partner with Schools or Youth Programs

Support essay contests, art projects, or educational activities focused on civic engagement, history, or the future of America.

7. Refresh Your Branding—Thoughtfully

Incorporate subtle America 250 messaging into marketing materials, storefronts, or digital platforms while keeping it tasteful and inclusive.

8. Give Back Through Service

Organize a company volunteer day tied to community improvement, honoring the spirit of service that has shaped the nation.

9. Share Your Company's American Story

Tell the story of how and why your business was founded, the challenges overcome, and how it contributes to the American economy today.

10. Look Forward, Not Just Back

America 250 isn't only about history—it's about the future. Share how your business is investing in innovation, workforce development, and long-term community success.

MOHAVE COLLEGE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TRAINING CENTER (AMTC)

MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace at the Mohave College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) is open and ready for you!

ABOUT THE MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace is open to students from Mohave College, commercial partners and residents of Mohave County.

We have options for individual training, classes and community access to the latest technology.

HOW WE CAN HELP



Service Bureau can help bring your idea from design to prototype creation



Community access to the latest technology



Training options available: Individual or class setting

Mohave College Makerspace
Advanced Manufacturing Training Center
4415 N. Windrose Ln. Kingman, AZ 86401

Open Tuesdays 5pm to 8pm
Wednesdays 9am to 3pm
and by appointment

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Prototype

Create an actual working prototype from an idea.

Replacement Parts

3-D print a part that is no longer manufactured or available.

Update Skills

Learn to use the latest technology to design and print in 3-D.

For more information contact:

AMTC@MOHAVE.EDU

WWW.MOHAVE.EDU



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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ICE

Businesses should not be afraid if ICE visits their workplace. An ICE presence does not automatically mean wrongdoing has occurred; in many cases, it is simply part of routine enforcement or follow-up on documentation. The best approach is to remain calm, professional, and respectful, and to legally comply with any lawful request. Cooperation within the boundaries of the law protects the business, its employees, and its reputation, while avoiding unnecessary escalation or confusion.

To make any potential interaction smoother and less stressful, businesses can prepare now by ensuring they are following proper legal processes. This includes maintaining accurate and up-to-date I-9 records, understanding the difference between public and non-public areas, designating who is authorized to speak with government officials, and having legal counsel identified in advance. Preparation is not about avoidance—it is about compliance. When policies, training, and documentation are in order, an ICE visit can be handled efficiently, professionally, and with minimal disruption to operations.



The Value of Investing in Employees

By Tyra Cheney

In rural Arizona, finding and retaining good employees does not always come easy. More often, the best employees are already here - living, learning, and looking for opportunities close to home. By investing in local talent through accessible training and career pathways, employers can build a skilled, loyal workforce while strengthening the communities they serve

Investing in employees helps build stronger companies, a more skilled workforce, and a thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to grow. Training programs equip employees with the tools they need to succeed in modern workplaces. There are opportunities to learn new technologies, improving skills, or develop professionally. Ongoing education opportunities increase productivity, efficiency, and retention. Well-trained employees are better prepared to adapt to change, solve problems, and contribute ideas that move businesses forward.

For employers, the benefits are clear. Companies that invest in their workers often experience higher retention rates, reduced recruitment costs, and stronger workplace morale. Employees who feel supported and valued are more engaged and loyal, creating stable teams and a positive company culture. In competitive markets, businesses known for developing their people also attract top talent.

The impact extends far beyond individual companies. When local businesses invest in their workforce, the entire community benefits. Skilled workers earn higher wages, which leads to increased spending at local shops and services. Families gain greater financial security, and communities see stronger economic growth. Training initiatives can also help close skills gaps, ensuring that local industries have the talent they need to remain competitive.



MOHAVE COUNTY
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Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network: Opening Doors to Opportunity

A Privilege to Help People Build Their Future

The Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network (NAGJN) is gaining real momentum across our area. Adults across Northern Arizona can access free online skilled trades training through the NAGJN grant, made possible by a partnership between the Mohave County Economic Development Department and Local First Arizona. It's an easy way to gain real-world skills and explore growing opportunities in the trades.

Current participants are sharing encouraging feedback about how the program builds their confidence, strengthening their skills, and helping them take the next step toward meaningful employment and career growth.

As a grant facilitator for NAGJN, I'm continually inspired by the people I meet — each with their own story, goals, and determination. It's truly been a privilege to help individuals register, begin training, and set out on their path to success. Getting a glimpse into people's lives and goals reminds me how powerful access to opportunity can be.

With NAGJN, I see firsthand how this training helps people discover new directions — from high school students seeking trade careers to seasoned workers discovering new possibilities in the skilled trades. Employers benefit by building stronger teams, connecting with skilled workers, and using free training to upskill and promote from within.

Could you benefit from this opportunity? Whether you're working and want to build new skills, plan to reenter the job market, or want to add new training to your résumé, NAGJN offers free courses in the trades. Programs are offered in key trades such as manufacturing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and more.

You can register, enroll, and start classes in just minutes — all it takes is a quick phone call. Best of all, training is flexible, easy to access from any internet-connected device, and designed to fit your busy schedule. With trade and manufacturing jobs growing across Northern Arizona, now's the perfect time to take the next step.

Reach out to learn more or get started today!

Tyra Cheney
NAGJN Grant Facilitator
Mohave County Economic Development Department
Office: 928-757-0960
Cell: 928-716-4977
chenet@mohave.gov



Roaming Cactus



DOWNTOWNS | TOURISM

A group of people in a rafting boat.

Destination Development Association

Promote the rafting,
not the river

Market the experience, not the amenity | DestinationDevelopment.org

Roger Brooks, Destination Development Association

Roger Brooks has ways to touch tourist without being pushy. One way is focusing on the fun and excitement they will be experiencing when they come to an area.

This month, instead of highlighting a specific area in Mohave County, we want you to respond to our newsletter with your favorite place to visit that is not one of our regular tourist attractions. Let us know what makes our Mohave County Region unique and exciting to visit. Please email tourism@mohave.gov



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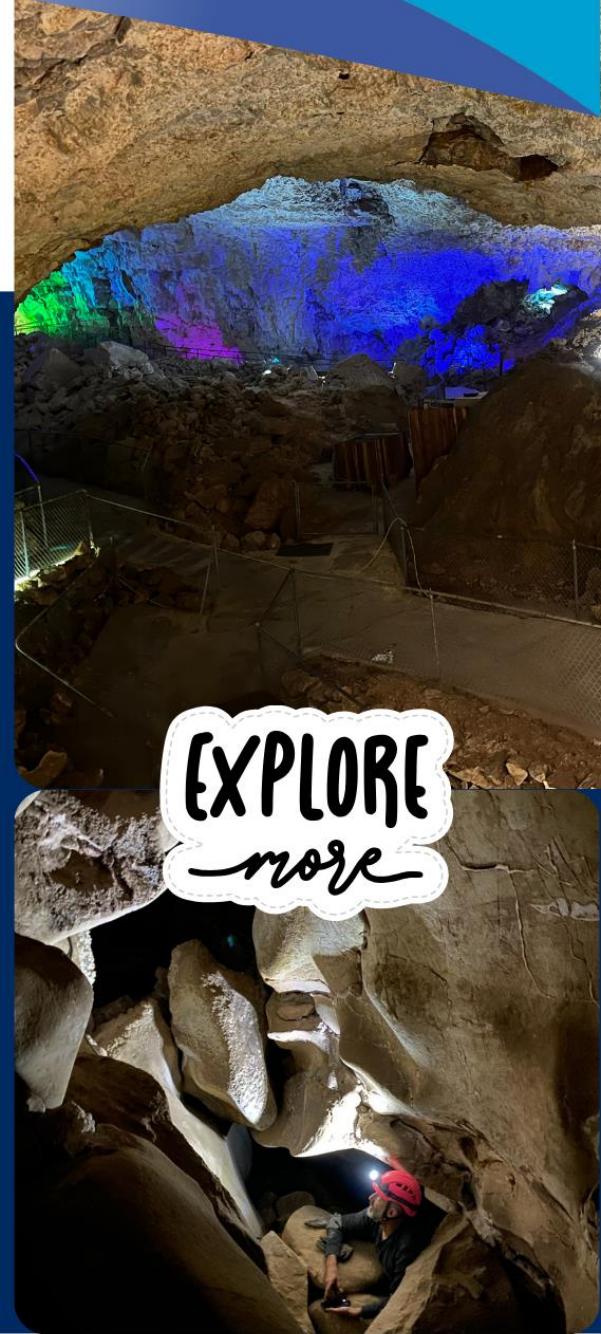
Regional MOHAVE COUNTY TOURISM MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2026
10:00 A.M.

Hosted by:
Grand Canyon Caverns & Inn

Join us as Alayna Bria, Marketing Manager, and Roxanne Davis, Hotel Manager of Grand Canyon Caverns & Inn, present a truly one-of-a-kind destination experience. Formed more than 65 million years ago, the Grand Canyon Caverns sit 210 feet below the surface and are home to the largest dry caverns in the United States. The property is proudly owned and operated by the Havasupai Tribe.

The site features a 48-unit Inn, RV Park, and full-service restaurant, along with guided tours ranging from wheelchair-accessible explorations to adventurous wild cave experiences. With offerings for all ages and experience levels, this iconic destination blends history, hospitality, and unforgettable adventure.



EXPLORE
more

Meeting Location

The Caverns Grill
Mile Marker 115 Route 66
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

RSVP

Seating is limited - a light breakfast will be served.

928-757-0917
economic@mohave.gov



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