

# TOTAL NEWS

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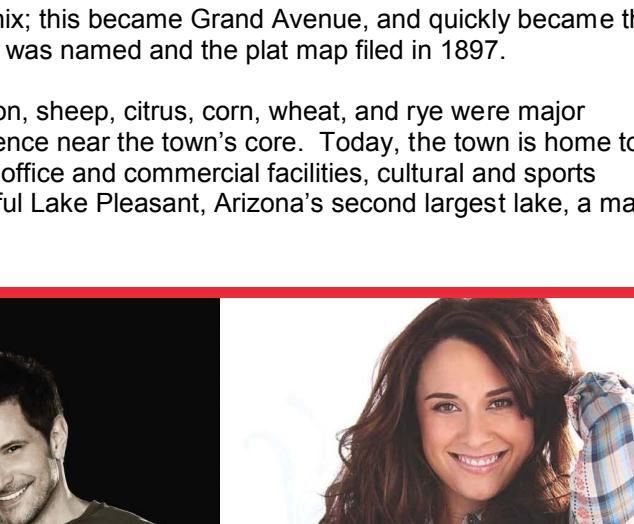
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## History of Peoria

The origins of Peoria are closely tied to the beginnings of Phoenix itself. When Jack Swilling established what was to become Phoenix in 1868, and excavated old Hohokam irrigation canals, it became clear that water was the key to making this desert produce crops. Thus were several irrigation canal companies born. One was the Arizona Canal Company, established in 1882 to provide water to the foothill lands to the west, where there were no old canals to rehabilitate. Hired to head the company was William J. Murphy, a former Union Army officer, and the canal was finished in 1885.

Murphy was from Illinois, and it was to there he returned to recruit settlers. 4 families were enticed by the potential and the climate, and decided to make the move. The town they left was called Peoria. Soon they were in Arizona, at the site of present day Peoria, living in tents, and then simple adobe homes. It was a pretty isolated place, except for an old freight road connecting Phoenix to Wickenburg. In 1887, a new wide road was built by Murphy and others between Peoria and Phoenix; this became Grand Avenue, and quickly became the main corridor between Phoenix and Wickenburg, and points in between. The town was named and the plat map filed in 1897.

As with most of the Valley of the Sun, Peoria was big in farming and ranching; cotton, sheep, citrus, corn, wheat, and rye were major agricultural areas of concentration. Nowadays, there's very little of that still in evidence near the town's core. Today, the town is home to spring training facilities for both major and minor league teams, there are excellent office and commercial facilities, cultural and sports complexes, fine dining and entertainment, as well as shopping, not to forget beautiful Lake Pleasant, Arizona's second largest lake, a major draw for the whole metro area. Something for everyone!



On May 15th Salt River Fields will be hosting the Classic Cars and Country Music Event!



There will be 500 classic cars, live music, a kids zone, food and beverages, and other vendors. The gates open at 10 A.M., and the live music begins at noon. Don't forget water and sunscreen!

The head liner includes Grammy nominated country music star Ty Herndon, with special guest Amber Hayes. Amber will be performing at 3 P.M. and Ty will go on at 4:30 P.M. Tickets are \$10. For tickets or information, click on the event logo above or call 480-270-5000. If you have a classic car that you would like to register visit [www.nancyperryproductions.com](http://www.nancyperryproductions.com).

## Upcoming Events

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
May 5	Fat Tuesday	Cinco De Mayo
May 5	Aunt Chilada's	Cinco De Mayo
May 5	Majerle's Scottsdale	Cinco De Mayo
May 6	Tempe Beach Park	Rio Salado Triathlon
May 6	Salt River Fields	Christian Festival
May 12	Comerica Theatre	Moody Blues
May 13	Comerica Theatre	Chelsea Handler
May 14	Castles & Coasters	Kung Fu Panda 2Day
May 15	Salt River Fields	Cars & Country Show
May 25	Comerica Theatre	Earth, Wind & Fire

## redRock co

Red Rock is at it again. This month they are holding their first annual Iron Gear Sports Rio Salado Triathlon. It's the 3rd event in the Red Rock Co. Arizona Triathlon Series. The event will be held at Tempe Beach Park. Click [here](#) if you are interested and would like more information.

Who is Red Rock Co you ask? They are an event production corporation that specializes in multi-sports events. They have hosted events for national sponsors such as Timex Corporation, Toyota, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Danskin, and more. In addition, they also help produce charity events for local and national charities to raise money for non-profit organizations such as the John Wayne Cancer Foundation and Special Olympics of Arizona. Since their inception they have donated \$30,000 every year to these non-profit organizations, sporting teams, and numerous charities throughout the United States and Mexico.

Red Rock's goal is to create safe and memorable events for all of their customers. Through their events they want to promote healthy living for all ages. Red Rock creates the opportunity for people to achieve fitness on all different levels with their year-round activities. They are passionate about their product and the result and involve athletes, a charity, and community in every project that they do.

I've personally met the owner, Kimo, as well as Andy with event logistics. They are both great people, very friendly and easy to work with. If you've never been out to one of their events, I encourage you to go check one out!

