



Helping Local Veterans

TPV residents pitch in to help women vets.

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Make A Wish

Gala event generates nearly \$700,000 for Make-A-Wish Foundation

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July 4th festivities prove fun without the fireworks

Despite worries, cities experience a safe holiday

Daniel J. Quigley
Independent Newspapers

As Arizona prepared to celebrate its first Independence Day since passage of a law last year making it legal to sell and purchase fireworks within the state, many local officials braced for what some feared would be a busy and potentially dangerous Fourth of July.

Cities and towns all over the state rushed to ban the use of fireworks when certain consumer types became legal in 2010.

But that didn't seem to stop or deter interest. For several weeks leading up to the holiday, fireworks could easily be purchased in convenience stores, supermarkets and out of tents on street corners.

"People using fireworks, especially kids, in residential areas during the driest time of year ... is a recipe for disaster," said Scottsdale Vice Mayor Bob Littlefield back in November, echoing most of his

From first blush, it appears all of our media outreach did have an impact.

Jim Ford
Scottsdale Deputy Fire Chief

city-council colleagues from across Scottsdale, Paradise Valley and Phoenix.

But across the three cities almost nothing bad happened as a result of the devices.

And despite fireworks being banned in all three cities, fire and police officials knew this was one law that probably would be broken on the Fourth of July.

In Scottsdale, the fire department received 302 calls for service. Of those, one was an injury involving consumer fireworks; a young girl suffered an injury to an eye as a result of a consumer fireworks "explosion," according to Deputy Fire Chief Jim Ford.

There were also four reported small brush fires. One was confirmed to have been started by a sparkler - which, oddly enough, are not among those fireworks that were banned. It was near a house where residents were not home, but firefighters acted quickly enough to extinguish the blaze before the structure was affected.

"The resident was not home and was lucky that his neighbors were very observant or we would have had a major residential structural fire," Mr. Ford said.

He says the causes for the other

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Creatures of the Night

Biltmore/TPV home to large bat population

Daniel J. Quigley
Independent Newspapers

No, Bruce Wayne did not move to the Valley, but we do have our own "bat cave." It occupies a tunnel known to thrive during dark nights, not as "Dark Knights."

Where the Biltmore area meets Paradise Valley, there is a tunnel, part of the Maricopa Flood District, which opens near 24th Street and Arizona Biltmore Circle and near 40th Street, north of Camelback Avenue. Nearly every evening from April to October, just as the sun sets, thousands of Mexican free-tail bats leave their roosts in the tunnel and their young - which stay behind - to forage for insects from tunnel's two openings.

The tunnel is home to more than 5,000 of the creatures who use it for breeding, an important home because each only has about one offspring per year, according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

There are also fair amounts of cohabitating pipistrelle bats, the smallest species found in Arizona at about 2 inches wide.

The Game and Fish Department will showcase the tunnel opening at 24th Street during its two free nocturnal animal viewing events to be held 7:15 p.m. Fridays, July 15 and Aug. 5.

Game and fish spokeswoman Lynda Lambert says the events often interest residents because they are surprised that there is so

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VIPeople

Sondra Koskela was inaugurated president of the Phoenix Camelback Rotary Club June 22 at the Paradise Valley home of **Bernard and Susan Pollock**. Phoenix Camelback Rotary meets at noon Tuesday at El Chorro Lodge, 5550 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley. The club's chief charities are The Gift of Life, Foundation for Burns and Trauma, St. Vincent dePaul and St. Mary's Food Bank. Membership information is available by calling Ms. Koskela at 602-840-0732.

Adam W. Grounds, grade 11, earned high honors for the 2011 winter term at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N.H. Adam is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David W. Grounds of Paradise Valley.

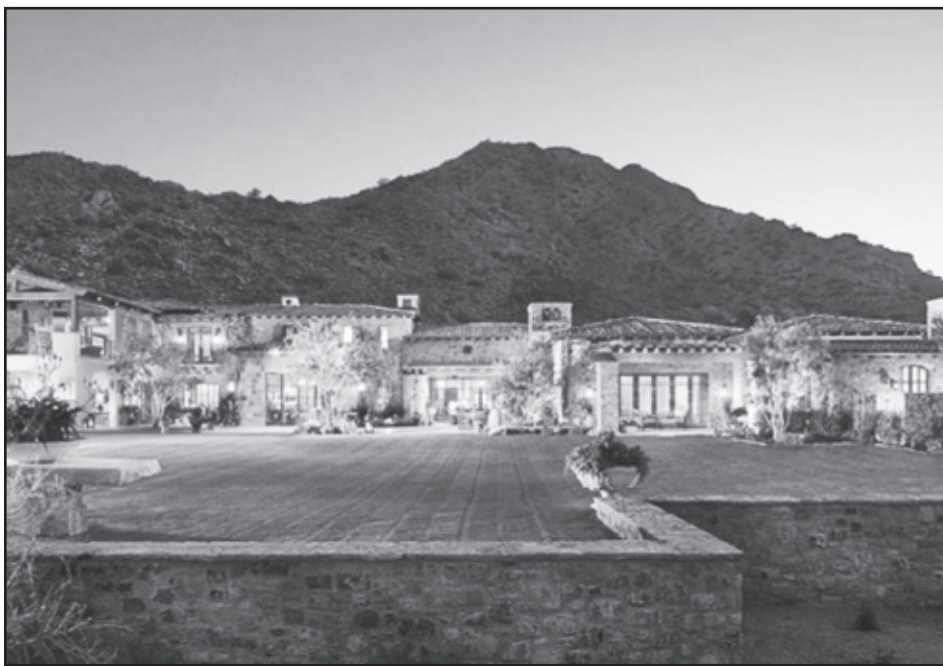
Air Force Airman 1st Class **Sarah L. Harnitchek** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. She is the daughter of Joan Harnitchek of Scottsdale. She graduated in 2007 from Saguaro High School.

Alliance Bank of Arizona has announced that **Kate Maynard** has been promoted to vice president, Treasury Management Officer. "Kate's hard work has earned her recognition as a treasury management and merchant bancard sales and service leader, with noteworthy civic and philanthropic contributions," said Chief Executive Officer Jim Lundy. Ms. Maynard began her banking career in Arizona and is a member of the Hon. Kachina Board of Directors and AFPA. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Alabama.

Alliance Bank of Arizona has promoted **Jeff Schelter** to vice president, commercial lending officer. Mr. Schelter began his career with Alliance Bank in 2005 and is a graduate of the University of Arizona Eller School of Management. He is a member of the Developing Leaders program of NAIOP and is a volunteer in the community in various organizations.

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Desert Star Construction has won top honors for two of its Valley developments, including **Zona Verde**, which earlier this year became Paradise Valley's first-ever LEED-certified custom "green home." The awards were presented at the 48th annual Gold Nugget Award Event, one of the nation's oldest industry awards program.

Local construction firm earns national recognition

Desert Star Construction has earned the highest Gold Nugget Award -- the Grand Award -- for two of its Phoenix-area development projects.

The winners were named during the 48th annual Gold Nugget award event, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious industry award programs. They rank DSC among industry-leading submissions from across the U.S. and world.

DSC's two Gold Nugget Grand Awards went to Zona Verde, which earlier this year became Paradise Valley's first ever LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes certified custom "green" home, and Phoenix Dream Center, where in 2010 DSC completed a major kitchen renovation.

"Projects like these are built with many hands and many heads working in tandem," said DSC President Jerry Meek.

"Phoenix is fortunate to have a tremendous pool of construction and design talent, and we are grateful that this was valued by the Gold Nugget judges."

Zona Verde was recognized in the "Custom Home Over 6,500 Square Feet" category. The project was managed by DSC Project Superintendent Kieran Davern and DSC Sustainability Programs Manager Jeremy Meek,

who also gave DSC the distinction of being Arizona's first builder to have a LEED for Homes Accredited Professional (LEED AP Homes).

Zona Verde was completed by DSC and industry partners Candelaria Design of Phoenix, Vallone Design of Scottsdale and Berghoff Design Group of Scottsdale.

As an organization, the mission of the Phoenix Dream Center is to provide food, shelter and job training so that Phoenix's at-risk youth, victims of human trafficking, homeless and needy families can discover their potential and put their lives back together.

The renovation orchestrated by DSC upgraded Phoenix Dream Center's original 1,200-square-foot kitchen to a 4,000-square-foot, high output meal center. What once was constrained to 5,000 meals per week now easily generates more than 9,000 meals per week and has the capacity to produce one million meals annually.

"What Desert Star Construction accomplished by renovating our kitchen and bringing the facility up to code was the salvation of the Phoenix Dream Center," said Pastor and Phoenix Dream Center Founder Tommy Barnett.

TPVClubs

Wednesdays

NotMykid's EMBRACE group meets 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the notMYkid office, 5230 E. Shea Blvd. EMBRACE is a confidential group providing encouragement, support and resources to parents faced with difficult issues and decisions within their families as it relates to raising teens. Call 602-652-0163.

Paradise Valley Rotary Club meets 12:10 p.m. Wednesdays at 7505 E. McCormick Parkway. The club meets for lunch and typically has a guest speaker talk about his or her profession or accomplishments. For details, visit www.pvrotary.org, or e-mail info@pvrotary.org.

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club meets 7 p.m. second Wednesday of each month at Sunburst Resort, 4925 N. Scottsdale Road. Write to P.O. Call 602-222-5999.

Scottsdale Society of Women Writers meets 5:30-7:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month at Chaparral Suites, 5001 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Cost \$22 members; \$25 guests. RSVP to Patricia@plbrooks.com or 480-250-5556.

Thursdays

Business Network International, a group of 43 non-competing businesses that meet each week to refer business to one another, meets 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Rock Bottom Brewery at Desert Ridge Marketplace. Call Brent Sullivan, 480-620-7300.

Paradise Valley Moms of Multiples host general meetings 6:30 p.m. the first Thursdays of each month at Scottsdale Healthcare Shea, 9003 E. Shea Blvd. Activities and guest speakers. For details, e-mail president@mypvmom.org or membership@mypvmom.org.

Widow and Widowers Networking Group meets 5:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month at Pita Jungle, 7366 E. Shea Blvd. Group builds friendships through communication, cultural events and social activities. All are welcome. E-mail dovesinthedesert@yahoo.com.

Tuesdays

Scottsdale Lions Club hosts its general meetings 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Paradise Bakery & Cafe, 8777 N. Scottsdale Road. Guest are welcome, but must contact a club member prior to attending. The club also hosts business networking meetings 6-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at various locations.