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LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA | \$2.00 | Sunday, June 9, 2019



Daisy Nelson/Today's News-Herald
South End Storage is a storage facility in town.

Lake Havasu City's storage building boom

Hundreds of storage units are being built, and it's driven by outdoor recreation

By **DAISY NELSON**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Lake Havasu City's full of storage facilities, and they just keep coming. Some of the newest options include insulated units, customizable man caves and the capability to store hundreds of boats.

"It's a direct reflection of the activities that Havasu is famous for," City Manager Jess Knudson said. Lots of toys — like boats, RVs, kayaks and ATVs — need lots of storage.

Currently, there are approximately 40 operating business licenses for storage facilities in Lake Havasu City, according to Knudson. City officials

couldn't immediately say how many facilities are under construction, but more are already planned and well on their way, like Riverbound Custom Storage & RV Park.

Located just across the highway from Havasu Heights and about 10

See **STORAGE**, Page 5A

WWII Navajo Code Talkers honored



Buck Dopp/Today's News-Herald
Kermit Palmer of Yuma is the son of code talker Balmer Slow Talker. He displays a GI Joe code talker toy on Saturday.

33 BRICKS PLACED ON HAVASU MEMORIAL WALKWAY TO COMMEMORATE THEIR SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

By **BUCK DOPP**
SPECIAL TO TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Saturday's ceremony to unveil 300 new commemorative bricks on the Havasu Memorial Walkway—including 33 to

honor the Navajo Code Talkers—had the pageantry of a Fourth of July Parade.

The Havasu Freedom Foundation's Memorial Walkway is a commemorative brick path that begins at the London Bridge and extends alongside the Bridgewater

Channel. The Walkway also includes a series of bricks which contain short essays on the history of freedom in America. Anyone can sponsor a brick to honor a veteran, a special occasion, a family member, or an organization. The proceeds are used to fund scholarships and support veterans.

Gary Meyers has been involved with the Walkway from its inception in 2007

See **CODE TALKERS**, Page 6A



Buck Dopp/Today's News-Herald
Tom Kirchner purchased one of the first bricks for Wounded Warrior Brian Kolfage.



Buck Dopp/Today's News-Herald
Ronald Thompson holding his dad, Nelson Thompson's picture.



Buck Dopp/Today's News-Herald
Military Mom President Cindy Ritter and Vice Mayor David Lane.

TUBE FLOAT: COLORADO RIVER PACKED WITH PEOPLE ON SATURDAY



Peter Castillo/Today's News-Herald
This giant rubber duck, a vibrant pink flamingo and huge crowds came down to the river for the 42nd annual Parker Tube Float on Saturday.



School district's upgrade projects shift into high gear

By **PAM ASHLEY**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

The flooring replacement project that began last winter has switched into high gear at most Lake Havasu Unified School District schools, except two.

"Thunderbolt is completely done," said the district's Business Services Director Michael Murray. "And Smoketree will be last because a new chiller is being installed at that school right now."

The \$2 million flooring project in all district schools replaces 20-year-old carpet with synthetic carpet tiles that are

See **CARPETS**, Page 6A

HAVASU SUNDAY

GOOD MORNING!

104 78

TODAY'S FORECAST: Sunny, windy and warm

SEE PAGE 9A

INSIDE



NATION: Archbishop didn't tell Vatican whole story on fallen bishop

PAGE 10A



NATION: Virginia man back in US after court questions deportation

PAGE 10A



OPINION: Is the U.S. full? To call for higher immigration intake is irresponsible.

PAGE 4A

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Lynn Shaffer
October 3, 1953 - May 19, 2019

SEE PAGE 6A

ONLINE ONLY

View photos from the Parker Tube Float on Saturday.
HavasuNews.com.

INDEX

Marketplace: 4B
Classifieds: 3-6B
Comics: 7B
Obituaries: 6A

Opinion: 4A
Orchids & Onions: 7B
Sports: 7-8A

Volume 53, No. 160



SUNDAY

CARPETS: DISTRICT'S UPGRADE PROJECTS SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

24-inch squares. The new carpet tiles and installation are being paid for with money from 2016's \$49 million bond that was earmarked for capital improvements.

Shaw Industries, based in Phoenix, won the bid for the flooring contract. Every carpeted surface in the school district is being replaced under the terms of the agreement.

On Friday, an installation crew was in the homestretch at Oro Grande Classical Academy on the city's south side. "They'll finish today and Monday at Oro Grande and then start on Nautilus after that," Murray said. "Jamaica is 85% done. We've been working around other activities going on at that school - the Parks & Rec summer program and summer school. Eight classrooms and the front office area remain to be finished."

At the high school, J Hall was completed during winter break. The Performing Arts Center and the remainder of the school will be outfitted with new flooring before school starts Aug. 5.

Another project that is well underway is the installation of video surveillance systems at all district buildings. The \$500,000 project began during spring break.

IP Vision based in Phoenix is handling the project, which includes new systems at all eight school campuses plus the administration complex. The system connects all nine sites and includes 370 new cameras. Previously, the video systems at each school were independent of each other and ranged in functionality from complete failure to operating poorly.

A fair amount of choreography is involved with the carpet and surveillance installations.

"All the installers are trying to coordinate their projects so they can get the jobs done and stay out of each other's way," Murray said.



Pam Ashley/Today's News-Herald

Lorenzo Rios removes old carpet in preparation for installing new carpet tiles in Oro Grande's library.

CODE TALKERS: HONORED ON THE MEMORIAL WALKWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

currently the vice president of the Freedom Foundation. He introduced the dignitaries, shared a little about the Walkway, and served as the day's emcee.

The Marine Corps League's color guard presented the colors, Mayor Cal Sheehy gave a proclamation before Laura Tohe and Zonnie Gorman, both daughters of code talkers, treated everyone to a history lesson about the Navajo Code Talkers.

About 45 family members of the original code talkers journeyed long distances to Lake Havasu for the ceremony. The program concluded with the children of code talker families reading the names of the original code talkers. When a name was read, the family members of that code talker stood up to applause.

After the mournful 24 notes of Taps, played flawlessly by Dante Marinelli, the Navajo families led the way to the unveiling of the bricks and the ribbon cutting by the Chamber of Commerce.

There were 29 original Navajo Code Talkers who created a verbal code for radio operators in battles with the Japanese. The code kept communications secure, which saved lives and hid strategies and troop movements.

At the war's end, the code talkers were told not to talk about what they did in the war. The military wanted to be able to use the code if America went to fight again. The confidentiality may have also been motivated by a desire to protect the code talkers and their families. However, the secrecy also meant that the code talkers' exploits went unrecognized until the program was de-classified in 1968. They finally could receive the honors they richly deserved.

Ronald Thompson's dad, Nelson, one of the original 29 and he didn't want to talk about the war. Ronald has had to research the code talkers on his own. About a dozen of the Thompson family came, and they arrived early so they could sit in the front row. His mother Marlene is the last surviving spouse of the original code talkers.

Kermit Palmer's dad, Balmer Slow Talker, told him, "I did my duty. I didn't do anything anyone else didn't do." Although his dad wasn't happy with the way the Navajos were treated, he said, "When the U.S. was attacked, we were attacked." The last order his dad received from the Marines was, "Don't talk about it."

Guest Speaker Laura Tohe, a well-known author, poet and ASU professor, wrote Code Talker Stories. She shared some history and moved the audience with a stirring poem she wrote from the point of view of the Navajo Code Talker, which included Navajo phrases.

Keynote Speaker Zonnie Gorman, daughter of Carl N. Gorman, one of the original 29, is a recognized historian of the Navajo Code Talkers. "I knew my father was a code talker, but I didn't know what they did. He always told funny stories, so I grew up thinking war was funny."

She said Navajos were recruited from reservations with the idea of creating a pilot program of about 30 men. They didn't know why they were recruited until after graduating from Marine Corps boot camp when they were assigned to communications school and asked to invent a secret communications code using the Navajo language for combat radio operators.

In April 1942, the first 29 went through boot camp



Buck Dopp/Today's News-Herald

The Marine Corps League Color Guard presented the colors at Saturday's event.

together. It was later learned that an additional four men ended up with the initial group bringing the total to 33.

"The initial code was around 200 terms," she said. "There was no written code that has ever come to light." The code eventually expanded to about 700 words and the Japanese cryptologists were never able to crack it.

"A lot of people don't understand that it was an evolutionary program," Gorman noted. "They started to use them only as battlefield radio operators and then expanded their use to other forms of communication. In Iwo Jima, they used the code talkers to coordinate the landings and the movement of the ships. The Marine Corps really utilized them and saw the potential."

Mark Partida, Ken Bobee and John Walter from the Lake Havasu Public Works Department laid most of the 300 bricks. Gary Meyers even chipped in to help, offering a little hands-on management.

"Donating a brick is a great way to honor anyone who has fought for our freedoms," he said. "The commemorative bricks beautify the path along the channel, creating a memorial that can be studied and enjoyed by visitors as well as residents."

Meyers estimates about 1,800 bricks have been laid to date. "We have room for thousands more. All the funds except the cost of the bricks become charitable donations. We know the money goes to good causes and we're honoring our veterans in the process. Get on the path and be a part of history."

The sponsorships range from \$85 or \$175 depending on the size of the brick. The Freedom Foundation gives half of the proceeds to the Marine Corps League Detachment #757 who contributes them to important veterans programs. The London Bridge Rotary club funds its various scholarships with the rest.

To order an engraved memorial brick online go to www.havasumemorialwalkway.org or by calling 1-866-929-5250.

OBITUARIES

JEFFREY LYNN SHAFFER
Oct. 3, 1953 - May 19, 2019

Jeffrey Lynn Shaffer, 65, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2019 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He was born to George and Agnes (Benson) Shaffer on October 3, 1953 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Jeff served his country in the United States Army. He went to trade school where he studied sheet metal fabrication. He was known around Havasu for making custom mail boxes out of sheet metal. Jeff also owned and operated Advantage Air.

Jeff is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Paulette Shaffer; children, Vernon (Victoria) Shaffer, Darrell (Kim) Shaffer, Lynn (Chad) Quist; grandchildren, Logan and Ali Quist, and Sarah and AJ Shaffer; and his beloved fur babies Sweet Pea and Creme Puff.



Per Jeff's wishes there will be no services. Thoughts and condolences can be sent to Jeff's family at www.mohavememorial.com. Arrangements were placed in the care of Mohave Memorial Lake Havasu Mortuary and Crematory.

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DISPLAY ADVERTISER INDEX

ALGER, CRYSTAL.....	1A
ALL AMERICAN AIR.....	2A
ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS.....	6A
BENO'S FLOORING.....	8B
COLLINS, DANIEL.....	2A
CONNECTED COMPUTER.....	10A
CRIT SAND & ROCK.....	2B
FRANZEN, JUNE.....	9A
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HCH.....	10A
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HOBBY LOBBY.....	3B
HORIZON COMM. BANK.....	8B
KDM/ HIGH DESERT VEIN.....	10A
KDM/ SUTTON.....	6A
LHC.....	2B
LIVING WELL.....	3A
MOHAVE CENTERS.....	8B
MOHAVE MEMORIAL.....	6A
MOVIES HAVASU.....	2A
PARKER FUNERAL HOME.....	6A
PASTORIUS, KC.....	9A
PRESTIGE ASSISTED LIVING.....	9A
RC UNITED WAY.....	3A
ROBERTS, JULIA.....	10A
SANCHEZ-HAWKINS.....	5A
SCHEMBRI, KENDI.....	2B
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