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SPORTS: PAGE 8A

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TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

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CA man in stolen vehicle refuses to comply with police, officers use 'flash bang device'

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

A traffic stop turned into much more in the Walgreens parking lot this afternoon. After blowing through a stop sign at the intersection of Beachcomber Boulevard and McCulloch Boulevard North around 2:07 p.m., a male driver in a silver Chevrolet Cruze was pursued by Lake Havasu City Police and eventually pulled into the

Walgreens parking lot. The male, identified as California resident Alexander Romero, 34, was non-compliant, according to LHCPD, refusing to step out of the vehicle and throwing various "drug related items" at surrounding officers, according to police. He was in the vehicle for approximately 35 minutes, and also rolled the windows up and down several times. Broken bottles and other items

were scattered on the asphalt around the silver Chevy, which was stolen from Baldwin Park, California, according to LHCPD. The license plate was stolen from a vehicle in Chino, California, and there were numerous items of drug paraphernalia inside the car, according to police.

Witnesses said officers had guns pulled and there was

See **WALGREENS**, Page 6A



Daisy Nelson/Today's News-Herald
A "flash bang device" was used, according to LHCPD, after continued non-compliance from the male driver.

50 YEARS, AN ETERNITY TO GO



The Reverend **Richard Tatham**.

A PEEK INTO THE LIFE OF HAVASU'S LONGEST-SERVING MINISTER

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

In 1969, significant events shaped the trajectory of our culture. Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, Woodstock rocked a peaceful upstate New York pasture and Lake Havasu High School opened its doors for the first time.

That same year, the Rev. Richard Tatham and his wife Grace, answered the call from the Assemblies of God to build a church in Lake Havasu City and minister to its people. They drove their six young daughters from Buhl, Idaho in an old Mercedes diesel pulling a

trailer containing all their worldly possessions. Eighty-five miles from Lake Havasu, one of the axles broke on the trailer. They had no choice but to park it in the desert and keep going.

When Tatham held his first worship service on Sunday, June 22, 1969, at Smoketree Elementary School, he became one of Lake Havasu's first Pentecostal pastors. Fifty years later, he's still preaching the Good News and still overseeing the church he built, Stonebridge Christian Fellowship. He is the longest-serving minister in the city.

Tatham and many volunteers built more than a church. They constructed Lake Havasu's first geodesic dome—in fact, three of them. The dome church became a tourist attraction second only to the London Bridge after a 1972 Life magazine article, "Revolutionary

See **PASTOR**, Page 3A



Courtesy
Above: (Left to right) Snow Peabody, Grace and Richard Tatham.
Below: The dome church.



Buck Dopp/Special to Today's News-Herald

The idea to make I-15 a toll road is back on the table

By **AGATA POPEDA**
SPECIAL TO TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

KINGMAN — Arizona Department of Transportation is thinking about the conversion of a 30 mile segment of I-15 into a toll road, warned Sup. Buster Johnson of District 3 in a memo to Mohave County Board of Supervisors. Johnson reminded that in 2012, the board approved a letter sent to the ADOT, opposing the conversion. The idea was mentioned again at the last Lake Havasu Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.

"ADOT may be looking to bring this idea up again and they are looking for the support of CSA and other organizations at this time," Johnson wrote. "In 2012, Supervisor Watson and I sat on this Board and at the time the Board unanimously approved opposition to this idea.

"Interstate 15 is a major route for freight and tourists. It runs from San Diego, past Los Angeles, through Las Vegas and on to Salt Lake City and the Canadian border. I-15 was built and constructed using the gas tax. It has been a taxpayer funded road since it opened in the 1960s in Arizona. I would support a private business building a better road and installing a toll in order to recoup costs. I do not support ADOT putting a toll on a road that was built with taxpayer funds. This would take away money from the people on what has always been a public interstate.

Johnson pointed out over 1,200 people who live along I-15 in Arizona, and the local economy is almost entirely agricultural. Many people who commute between the Nevada towns of Mesquite and southern Utah's St. George area need to cut across the Arizona I-15 portion.

"If approved, this would be a major economic hardship to our county. It could detour businesses from entering the Northern portion of our county unless they wanted to pay a toll or take a longer route. Businesses entering our county from Utah would have to drive around to Coconino County to enter our county which in return could detour businesses from entering."

Census canvassing begins in Havasu neighborhoods

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

The 2020 Census count officially begins in January of next year, but the process begins now. Census workers are visiting neighborhoods in Lake Havasu City to begin canvassing addresses.

Canvassing work will

continue through October, according to a city press release. The workers will identify themselves as a Census Bureau employees and show their official government ID badge. In order to confirm their identity, residents may ask for an additional photo ID.

The canvassing process allows the Census Bureau to

refine their list of household addresses across the county. It's a necessary step to ensure census materials are mailed to everyone possible.

The city continues to stress the importance of census participation and encourages all residents to weigh in.

"Everyone that lives here must be counted," Mayor Cal Sheehy said. "Simply put,

not counting our residents in Lake Havasu City would divert millions and millions of dollars to other communities who have an accurate count. Money generated through the Census count will help us maintain and improve our roads, public safety services, and attract more businesses."

For more information, visit census.gov.



BUSTER JOHNSON

HAVASU SUNDAY

GOOD MORNING!

108 83

TODAY'S FORECAST:

An afternoon t-storm **SEE PAGE 10A**

INSIDE



NATION: At least five people are dead and dozens are injured in a West Texas shooting following a traffic stop.

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NATION: "Stright pride" parade draws marchers, protesters and plenty of attention.

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OPINION: Criminal justice reform had a bipartisan minute. Then 2020 reared its head

PAGE 4A

OBITUARIES

Thelma Hunter, 96
Donald Gene Shol, 61

SEE PAGE 6A

ONLINE ONLY

View a photo gallery of Mohave County's Most Wanted for August at Havasunews.com.

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Volume 54, No. 244



SUNDAY

BEST BETS

3 THINGS YOU SHOULD DO TODAY



1. Eat breakfast

Start the morning off right – you can treat yourself to breakfast at either the American Legion, Moose Lodge, or the VFW at 8 a.m.

2. Have coffee

Havasu Cars and Coffee meets out at the mall this morning from 7 to 10 a.m., by the movie theater.

3. Play bingo

The Knights of Columbus host bingo at the Fellowship Hall this afternoon. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and games start at 6.

MORE EVENTS

Coming up Home Garden Day

Sept. 3: Library, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Problem with Plants? Bring a sample or photo. Gardening questions answered by Master Gardeners. 928-753-3788.

GraceArtsLive Auditions

Sept. 4: Arizona Coast Performing Arts Dance Studio, 7:30 p.m. Be prepared to sing a one minute song with a karaoke CD. Please wear tied, closed toed shoes. Character descriptions at www.graceartslive.com

Coffee with the Mayor

Sept. 6: Library, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. 928-453-4152.

First Friday on Main Street
Sept. 6: Main Street. 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

5 Iron Tournament

Sept. 7: Lake Havasu Golf Club. 7:30 a.m. \$50 per person. Includes lunch, green fees, and golf cart. 928-486-2234.

Ms. Lake Havasu City Pageant

Sept. 7: London Bridge Resort Convention Center. 4 p.m. \$50. Registration open until July 31. 928-453-8190.

London Bridge Republican Women:

Sept. 9: Shugrue's Bridgeview Room, 5:30 p.m. \$17. Speakers: Sonny Borrelli - District 5 Arizona Senate and Leo Biasiucci - Arizona State House of Representatives District 5 RSVP Sept. 7 at 573-707-2286. All welcome.

AARP Driver Safety class

Sept. 11: Senior Center, 7:45 a.m.-noon Limited to the first 25 callers. All drivers welcomed. \$15 AARP member, \$20 non-member. Call 928-453-0715 to register.

9/11 Rededication Ceremony

Sept. 11: London Bridge Beach. 8:30 a.m. Chairs suggested. Remember those who perished on 9/11. 928-855-2480.

LAUGHLIN

Aug. 28-Sept. 1: Breakdown: Tom Petty Tribute, Don's Celebrity Theater

Aug. 29-Sept. 1: Chase and the Pursuit, Spash Lounge at the Aquarius

Aug. 30-Sept. 1: Tim Bateman with Lindsay Glazer, Edge Lounge at the Edgewater

Aug. 30-Sept. 1: Joey Mazzola, Gold Diggers Nightclub

Sept. 1: Diamond Rio, Edgewater's E-Center

NIGHTLIFE

Aug. 30-Sept. 1: DJ Nutt, Martini Bay

Aug. 31-Sept. 1: Skunk Dub, Kokomo

Sept. 1: Hollis Googe, Fiesta Mexicana, 5 p.m.
Want your event listed here? Email the details to planner@havasunews.com

PASTOR: 50 YEARS OF MINISTERING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Dome Houses," drew national attention to its unique architecture. Dedicated in 1975 and designed by Tatham, the dome church continues to be the dominant landmark on Jamaica Avenue.

He opened Lake Havasu's first Christian pre-school and its first Christian charter school. He started the first Christian TV studio and launched the first Christian radio station, KNLB, which has operated continuously for 36 years. KNLB broadcasts to five states and features "Treehouse One," a nationwide children's show hosted by his daughter Debbie Eckelbarger.

Debbie's husband Faron manages the radio station and its engineering facilities. "It's been a humbling and learning experience over the years seeing how God has used [Tatham] in many different ways," Faron said. "He really has a heart for people. That's what I so appreciate about him. He reaches out to people that are hurting and need hope."

The pioneering pastor volunteered for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office before the city had a police department and was sworn in as a jail chaplain in 1985 by the LHCPD.

"Brother Tatham and I were the first two police chaplains, and are the longest-serving chaplains," said the Rev. Dale Ray, senior pastor at Lakeview Community Church. "We do everything from death notifications, to counseling, to supporting the officers who have experienced traumas."

Ray said Tatham, along with

Pastors Marvin Price and Tom Young founded the London Bridge Christian Churches in 1971. LBCC's primary outreach is Helping Hands, which was the "first social outreach organization in the community." It provides necessities like food, blankets, hotel rooms—even prescriptions—to locals and transients.

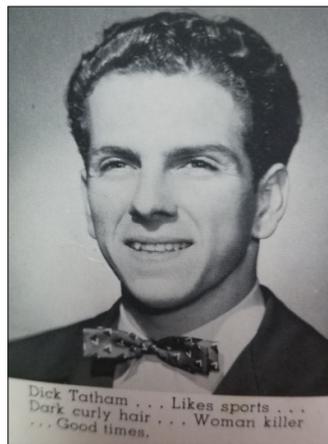
"I first met Brother Tatham when Marianne and I moved to Lake Havasu in 1972," Ray noted. "Our family attended church there until 1979. We found him to be a good man and a leader, not only in the church but in the community. Brother Tatham has made a great mark on the community, and his legacy will live on for many years. He is truly a founding pioneer of Lake Havasu."

Most people don't know that Ronald Reagan's White House invited Tatham for meetings three times. He doesn't know why, nevertheless, he's grateful they sought his advice. For many years he worked security at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention protecting other ministers such as Oral Roberts.

It would be easier to pull the quills out of a porcupine than to extract these facts from this humble man who flinches and even makes faces when asked about his accomplishments.

"I know who I am," explained Tatham. "I'm not trying to be more than I am, and I don't want people to think I'm trying to be more than I am."

There are no signs of quit in



Courtesy
Richard Tatham's high school yearbook photo.

either Richard or Grace, who are both 86. Richard still preaches, visits the sick, makes house calls on grieving families, changes tires for stranded motorists, makes repairs around the church, and drives his backhoe. "I do what I have to do," he said.

Despite suffering a stroke 11 years ago, Grace plays pickleball two or three times weekly in the fall and winter months. It's not unusual for her to bake six to eight pies in a week for those who need a little extra love—her apple and banana pies are favorites.

Debbie says her mom is her dad's biggest cheerleader, and she's an enthusiastic worshipper from her seat in a front-row pew.

"She's in the front row all right," Tatham joked. "Giving me hand signals." He draws his finger across his neck. "Like this, when she thinks I'm going too long." Getting serious, Richard credited Grace, his helpmate of 59 years, as one of the main reasons for his fruitful ministry.

Grace has been listening to her husband's sermons for the last six decades and said she has never heard him preach the same message twice. "He just loves people, and you should see his mail. He sends money for missions, and he puts money in the mail [for charities]."

He smiled and shook his head. "I can't keep from giving when someone asks me."

Grace's father, a preacher himself, advised her to "never marry a pastor." That's advice she never followed. She married two men who dedicated their lives to God. A



Buck Dopp/Special to Today's News-Herald

Grace Tatham bakes pies every week to give away.

See PASTOR, Page 6A

PRESTIGE ASSISTED LIVING AT LAKE HAVASU

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WALGREENS: POLICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

screaming. Lake Havasu City SWAT responded to the scene.

After still refusing to comply, a "flash bang device" was used, which is used to temporarily disorient one's senses. It is also known as a "stun grenade." The driver was arrested without incident.

Romero was transported to the hospital shortly after and will be charged with unlawful flight from a pursuing law enforcement vehicle, possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, driving on a suspended

license, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A San Bernardino County Sheriff helicopter surveyed the scene from above, circling to maintain visuals on the situation. Multiple fire engines, ambulances and police patrol vehicles filled the parking lot, and Walgreens shoppers were told to remain indoors until the situation was clear.

The road was blocked off on Lake Havasu Avenue from Swanson Avenue to McCulloch Boulevard while the situation was ongoing.

PASTOR: SERVING HAVASU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A

drunk teenage driver killed her first husband, Clarence "Ray" McCarty making Grace a widow with three daughters to raise—Patricia, Pam and Donna.

According to Tatham, he never knew McCarty even though they both attended Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz, CA. Richard's friend, Paul Nielson, introduced them at an Assembly of God District Council meeting. Grace brought Patricia and Pam along. Richard remembers Pam climbing all over him. The Tathams tied the knot on August 5, 1960, and are still going strong. Grace attributes their long and happy marriage to "knowing Jesus."

Daughter Donna Best-Carlton never wasted time questioning the untimely death of her biological father. "Instead of saying, 'Why, Lord?' I've been thankful for God replacing one great man with another."

After their marriage, Grace gave birth to Diane and Debbie, who are twins and then Brenee. Debbie said her dad is "like Jesus. He's always hanging around sinners. I've learned a lot about loving others from him, and that nobody's perfect."

"If we don't love the sinner, what are we doing here?" Richard asks. "That's why God sent his Son—for sinners. How are they going to know that God loves them if not through believers?"

His advice to others is a creed he and Grace have lived. "I believe we should put God first in everything."

There will be a celebration honoring Pastor Richard and Grace Tatham's 50 years of ministry in Lake Havasu City on Sunday, September 29 at Stonebridge Christian Fellowship, 2700 S. Jamaica Blvd. The public is invited to attend the festivities which start at 5:00 p.m. with a free dinner followed by the celebration. Please RSVP by calling 928-855-9110.

OBITUARIES

THELMA "LAURIE" HUNTER

March 12, 1923 - Aug. 1, 2019

Thelma "Laurie" Hunter passed away on August 1, 2019 at the age of 96 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. She was born March 12, 1923 to John Wallace Brown and Nellie Jane (Graves) Brown in Wesson, Arkansas.

Laurie grew up with seven brothers who were always a big part of her life. She graduated from Mt. Holly High School at age sixteen. Many men were joining the military service at this time to fight in WWII, and with that, leaving many jobs behind. Laurie had friends in Los Angeles, so she and her relative moved to California. She finished engineer school, and went to work for Lockheed Aircraft. She met Harold Hunter, Jr. in 1942 when he returned home from the South Pacific where he was serving his country as a United States Marine Corps Gunner. They were married March 14, 1944.



They celebrated 70 years together before she lost Harold on August 2, 2014. They raised two sons: Gerald A. Hunter and Dane L. Hunter. They were blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were entrusted to the care of Lietz-Fraze Funeral Home. Thoughts and condolences can be sent to the family at www.lietz-fraze.com. To send a free card go to www.sendoutcards.com/lietzfrazefuneralhome.



DONALD GENE SHOL

July 21, 1958 - Aug. 24, 2019

Donald Gene Shol, 61, of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on August 24, 2019. He was born in Whittier, California to Leslie and Genevieve Shol on July 21, 1958.

Don married the love of his life, Margaret Tootle, on September 22, 1984 at the famous Little White Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The couple had three daughters together and finally settled down in Lake Havasu City.

Don was a self-employed residential and commercial painting contractor. In his free time, he loved to spend time with his family and friends, he liked boating and had an interest in cars and trucks too. Don never missed an NFL game, especially if the Patriots were playing.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Meg; daughters, Jennifer Shol, Kimberly (Scott) Stutler, and Colleen Shol; beloved grandchildren, Andrew, Alexis, Justin, Maci, and Garrett; sister,



Leslie (Russ) Schroeder; brother, Mike (Elizabeth) Saunders; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Frank Shol.

A celebration of life will be held privately by Don's family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donation can be made in Don's name to Hospice of Havasu.

Thoughts and condolences can be sent to the family at www.mohavememorial.com. Arrangements were placed in the care of Mohave Memorial Lake Havasu Mortuary and Crematory.



Rev. Richard Tatham at the KNLB ground breaking October 25, 1981. Courtesy

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Republic Services will run a normal schedule the week of September 1 to September 7.

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