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TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

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GOOD MORNING!



109 TODAY'S FORECAST:
A stray t-storm this afternoon

85

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4 TO READ INSIDE TODAY



NATION: Police: 7 killed, 22 injured in West Texas shooting rampage.

SEE PAGE 14



NATION: Anxiety and impatience in long wait for Dorian on East Coast.

SEE PAGE 13



THE WEST: New research targets microplastics detected in Lake Tahoe

SEE PAGE 11



OPINION: Keep illegal immigrants off our roads, says guest columnist Ann Coulter

SEE PAGE 4

OBITUARIES

There are no obituary listings in today's paper. See recent listings at www.legacy.com/havasunews

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Volume 54, No. 245



Boater still missing 1 year after accident

UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCH EFFORTS HAVE BAFFLED LAW ENFORCEMENT

By **BRANDON MESSICK**
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

As families mourn recent deaths on Lake Havasu this summer, authorities are still seeking one



HEITZIG

California resident Raegan Heitzig is the last victim of a crash that killed three and injured nine on the Colorado River last year, and is still missing. As her friends and family wait and hope for her eventual recovery, a celebration of her life is being

planned in her memory. Kelsey Low, a friend of Heitzig's, has led efforts for the past year to financially aid the Heitzig family through an online crowdfunding campaign. "As of today, there is no news regarding the discovery of Raegan," Low said in a written statement earlier this year. "The family and friends are still committed to finding her and creating closure. While we wish we could find her, we also know the importance of memorializing her and paying our respects.

The Heitzig family has decided to have a celebration of life for Raegan Heitzig in September 2019."

Raegan Heitzig set out on the Colorado River last year to enjoy the holiday with her sister, aunt and other family members. While riding a passenger boat in the area of Topock, Heitzig's boat collided with another watercraft, ejecting all passengers. The accident killed four, including Heitzig, and injured nine. Three of the deceased victims

See **MISSING BOATER**, Page 6

A Sterling pioneer



Jim Sterling (seated) chats with the Lord Mayor of London last year when Lord Mayor of London visited Lake Havasu City for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the purchase of the London Bridge.

Jim Sterling remembered for long list of contributions to Havasu

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

Jim Sterling spent 55 years in Lake Havasu City quietly contributing his time, talent, and resources to improve the city. He didn't call attention to himself or need a round of applause. Helping others was its own reward.

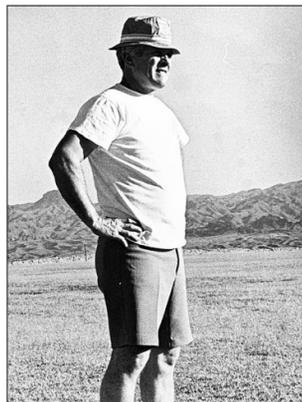
Sterling, who died on Aug. 17 at the age of 92, came to Lake Havasu in February of 1964 to wire 10 homes for electricity in the city's first neighborhood. An electrician for McAfee Guthrie, he lived in a 12-foot trailer and went home to his family in Mesa on weekends. Before leaving for work in the morning, he took a long look and jumped out the front door because he shared the lot with rattlesnakes.

His wife Margy and sons James

and Jeffrey joined him six months later when they were able to rent a spec home on Saguro Drive from a Holly salesman. Their youngest child, Kimberly, was born in 1966 in Kingman which had the closest hospital.

The Sterlings befriended the workers of Trico Engineering who were designing the streets and joined the 20 couples and their kids in socializing after work. Jim and the rest of the guys built a double-decker paddle wheeler with a diving board they called "Miller's Folly."

"We spent many fun days and nights having pot lucks and swimming," Margy said. "That's how all our kids became good swimmers. The adults played bridge, a card game that was our basic entertainment on the lake, besides going across the lake to California to the casino and playing pool."



Jim Sterling in the early days

Jim became good friends with C.V. Wood, the architect and designer of Disneyland and Lake

See **STERLING**, Page 5



Dennis Schroeder, NREL/Creative Commons
Trucks wait to be loaded with cargo at the port in Long Beach, Calif., in 2017.

Arizona officials fear fallout as new tariffs on Chinese goods start

By **WISSAM MELHEM**
CRONKITE NEWS

WASHINGTON — Arizona business leaders said they worry that a 15% tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese goods that took effect Sunday will backfire and end up hurting economic growth at home.

The new tariffs are set to be imposed on more than 6,000 items but will fall largely on consumer goods, according to the National Retail Federation. It said 60% of the goods targeted will be items like TVs, cellphones, shoes, clothes, furniture, toys, musical instruments and more.

The tariffs were originally set at 10% but were ratcheted up this month by President Donald Trump in response to tariffs the Chinese imposed on U.S. goods — just the latest rounds in a back-and-forth tariff war between the two countries.

Glenn Hamer, president and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is calling for the "immediate ceasefire" in the escalating trade war.

"About 65% of the economy is really associated with consumer spending," Hamer said. "If consumer confidence drops and the consumer is paying more toward staple items, that can and will hinder our country's economic growth."

But in remarks to reporters Friday, Trump insisted that the tariffs are working and that the latest escalation will go ahead as planned Sunday. He claimed that American farmers who have been hurt by Chinese tariffs have urged him to continue pressing for a new trade

See **TARIFFS**, Page 6

Domestic animal abusers now face harsher sentences in Arizona

By **TRAVIS RAINS**
SPECIAL TO TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

KINGMAN — Beaten, abandoned in the desert and sometimes outright killed, there are domestic animals in Arizona that have lived hard lives. Years can pass before survivors recover from their experiences. Some never do.

While dogs aren't likely to bark their approval for a new Arizona law that allows people to be charged with

a Class 5 felony for domestic animal abuse, one can imagine tails would wag if they understood the Legislature is looking out for them.

House Bill 2671, sponsored by Sen. John Kavanagh (R-Fountain Hills), was signed by Gov. Doug Ducey in May. Most notably, it allows those who have subjected a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment to be charged with a Class 5 felony.

"Animal cruelty is something we

See **ANIMAL ABUSERS**, Page 6



"Animal cruelty is something we see almost daily here in this massive county," said Nicole Mangiameli, animal care supervisor at the Mohave County Animal Shelter.

Courtesy

STERLING: PUBLIC SERVICE TOUCHED MANY LAYERS OF LAKE HAVASU CITY COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Havasu. One day Sterling made a suggestion to the city's designer: "This place is going to get bigger, Woody. We need to get wider streets."

Wood replied, "But Jimmy, we need to sell a lot of land!"

Later, Wood asked Sterling to apply his expertise to the largest antique ever sold. "Well Jimmy, we've got nearly all the granite here. Now it's up to you to wire the London Bridge!"

Sterling designed the electrical wiring from scratch—there were no plans—and performed most of the work himself. His craftsmanship has stood the test of time, and the city's most famous landmark continues to shine its lights from the cast-iron lampposts molded out of Napoleon's canons captured in the Battle of Waterloo.

Jim ran his own company for more than 30 years. "Sterling Electric became a common name to those who needed an electrician. He was the electrical contractor of choice," recalled John Kendig. "Jim Sterling was no stranger to anyone who moved here or built a home."

Sterling piloted his own airplane, a 250 Comanche low-wing. He flew sick and injured Havasuvians to hospitals in Phoenix, Las Vegas and California. He refused any payment for his services. Margy remembered the time Jim flew a man to Kingman who had dumped a bucket of hot tar on his body. "The man was in so much pain, Jim had to hold him down with one arm and fly the plane with the other."

"We didn't have a hospital until April 1973," explained Dr. Donald Nelson. "Even then, we occasionally couldn't take care of patients in the early days as a 'level one hospital.' The road to Parker wasn't even done. There was no medevac. Jim would use his own plane to fly people at his own expense."

Nelson added, "He loved Havasu and was 100% supportive of the community in a very selfless way. We would go to social events, and it seemed like he and Margy were always there to greet people. He wasn't looking for a pat on the back. He didn't expect anything in return. He did a lot of things behind the scenes, never looking to be the center of atten-

MORE ABOUT JIM STERLING:

- Served as president of the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC.
- Served four years as a school board member with perfect attendance.
- Served four years as Mohave County Supervisor and led the effort for the first traffic light at Mesquite and SR-95.
- Appointed to the Mohave Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments and served for four years.
- A charter member of Lake Havasu's first two Rotary Clubs.
- Flew Havasu's Search and Rescue airplane for the Civil Air Patrol.
- Announced away football games on Radio-KFWJ for Lee Shoblom.

- Announced home football games.
- Operated the generator which enabled the city to have power during the night.
- Started the Pee Wee baseball league.
- A golfer with a six handicap.
- A Shriner for over 50 years.
- First "Master of Mason" under the new Charter of Lake Havasu # 64.
- A ham radio operator, during the Mexico earthquake he relayed messages to California since the state had no contact with Mexico.
- A remote-control enthusiast, Sterling Field in Sara Park is named in his honor.
- Margy said Jim was known as "the city hugger" and "was always busy, never had an idle moment."

HAVASU REMEMBERS STERLING

Mayor Cal Sheehy: Jim was a Lake Havasu City pioneer and a strong advocate to make the city a better place. Jim's decades-long contributions will have a lasting impact for generations to come. Jim beamed with pride about his family. If you saw Jim, he would have a smile from ear to ear, and he would share a prideful moment about his wife, one of his kids, or grandkids—maybe all of them!

Dub Campbell: Jim got the Federal government to lease SARA Park to the county and was instrumental in getting the Bureau of Land Management to pave the roads. Sterling Field, the remote-control field at SARA Park, was named after Jim.

Larry Grzesiowski: Jim used to fly sheriffs around the mountain to check the dirt airstrips for recent landings so they could be aware if there were any recent drug deliveries made. He could fly low enough to see if there were fresh tire marks from recent landings. I think he gave a few of them a little thrill of a ride!

Tina Stocking: One thing I do know for a fact about Jim Sterling is that he was truly loved and adored by his family and friends. Without a doubt, he was a great man.

Gary Meyers: Jim always seemed the first with a handshake, kind word, or to volunteer for a community project.

Sandy Breece: Jim was my first connection to a fervently passionate school board member! When I would see him, he would always give me a big bear hug and a warm, friendly welcome then he would immediately slide onto school shop talk! Always having what was best for the kids as the first and foremost priority of any conversation I ever had with him.

Marilyn Widman: My late husband, Richard Metker, and I moved to Lake Havasu in 1967. I will always remember that any time I ran into him at a function or even at the store, he would always

greet me with a big hug and a wonderful smile. It always made my day.

Paula Anderson: I just know he always had a hug and kiss for me no matter how much pain he was in.

John Kendig: Jim was a devoted sports enthusiast of Lake Havasu High School, as he announced many of the high school football games. Jim enjoyed talking about Nebraska football and midget cars, which he raced in his younger years.

Amy Cooper Law: He was a great man and friend. He will be deeply missed.

Rosemary Yonda: Great man!

Floyd Hamilton remembered the time in the early 70s when Sterling asked him to ride in his plane to Orange County where his friend planned to conduct some business. After takeoff, Hamilton, knowing his bladder capacity had a limit, asked how long the flight would be. He was assured by Sterling they would be Orange County in plenty of time for him to relieve himself comfortably.

Hamilton noticed the flight was taking longer than Sterling had anticipated. "My bladder became more and more demanding of relief. As I watched Jim, I realized that he was becoming concerned about something. I looked at the gas, I realized that the tank was showing a little on the low side. Meantime, my bladder gauge was showing a lot on the high side."

Noticing that Sterling was sweating a lot, Hamilton asked if all was well. Sterling admitted that being on a visual flight plan, he had temporarily lost his way. "Meantime, my bladder problem was becoming much worse. Finally, I told Jim that he had better find an airport and land, or that he was going to have to deal with a wet floor of the plane. Fortunately, very soon, Jim found a landmark he recognized and brought us down at the Orange County Airport. Jim did his business, and I did my business."

tion or in the spotlight. That's what I liked about him."

Dale Frazee, Sr. is "forever grateful to Jim" for helping them when his son Dale Jr., a two-year old at the time, ingested crystal

Drano in 1971. Sterling flew the boy and his family to a hospital in Phoenix specializing in emergency pediatric care, saving Dale Jr.'s life.

Chris Frazee recalled that Jim



Courtesy Family portrait, from left starting in the back is Jimmy Sterling, JoAnn Sterling, Tom Wilson, Kimberly Wilson, Denise Sterling and Jeffrey Sterling. In the front row is Margy and Jim Sterling.

loved pranks. "When Dale and I got married on Feb. 3, 1969, during the reception, Jim managed to get into our suitcase. When we got to Las Vegas for the honeymoon, we opened the suitcase and lo and behold, it was filled with Life cereal, and my new nightie outfit was tied in knots!"

Gary Hettick noted that Sterling was one of the 20 charter members of the London Bridge Rotary Club when it was founded in February 1970. In 1985, when the Lake Havasu City Rotary Club was sponsored, Sterling transferred and became a charter member of that club as well.

"He got the London Bridge Rotary Club to sponsor an invitational track meet for Arizona high school boys and girls in 1977," Hettick said. "Now in its 42nd year, 8-15 teams compete every March in sanctioned track events."

Sterling served in the Navy for nine years, flying combat missions in World War II and Korea. Larry Grzesiowski shared a conversation with his friend. "Jim told me after his first mission as a fighter pilot, his C.O. told him he needed to shoot better at the ship, or he'd ground him. Jim replied that he didn't do that bad. The officer said, 'You want to see the film?' Jim told me he found out it was a lot harder

shooting at a target when the target was shooting back!"

After his military service, Jim worked for the railroad as a fireman before enrolling in an electrical engineering school in Chicago. When he graduated, he worked on big construction projects in Iowa and then Denver, where he met an airline stewardess named Margy.

Margy rented a room in a widow's house. When her landlord called Jim's company to fix a faulty porch light, he volunteered to replace it. Margy happened to be home at the time. A couple of weeks later, Jim came out again and repaired bathroom fixtures. After Jim's third visit—to replace the light bulb on the porch light—they started dating and were married in 1960. Margy said her husband loved saying, "I've been cussing that porch light ever since."

Jim's public service touched many layers of the community. He served as president of the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC, as a Mohave County Supervisor, as a Lake Havasu school board member, and on the Mohave Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments.

He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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