

TONTO TRIBUNE

Brought to you by The Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce



Active Parenting First Five Years classes offered in Gila County

Earn a free child or infant car seat while learning about the stages of your baby or toddler's development while socializing weekly with others who are navigating the complicated adventure of raising a child. A new series of free Active Parenting classes sponsored by First Things First will be offered in Northern Gila County every month. These are a series of 4 classes that will be offered in March - June in Tonto Basin. These classes can be offered in-person or on Zoom depending on the needs of the community.

Even if you're an experienced parent, caregiver, grandparent or babysitter, you'll add to your child-rearing "tool kit" in the free series of First Five Years workshops coached by youth and family educators with Arizona Youth Partnership's Active Parenting Program here in Gila County. You'll meet other parents and join a supportive child-caring community group. Participants score more than parental coping skills, those who complete the series earn bonuses that include a free car seat, free diapers and a \$25 gift card. Lessons over the series of four classes include:

- Interaction and time spent with your child help with their brain development
- Setting up routines with your child helps them feel safe and secure
- Nutrition plays a huge part in your child's brain development
- Building a bond with your child

- Discipline methods
- Positive ways to set boundaries
- Balanced parenting styles

To find out more details about dates and times, ask questions, or register for classes, please contact Suzie - email: suzie@azyp.org or call/text: (928)595-0062 or Charlene - email: charlene@azyp.org or call/text (928)812-0555



Bread of Life Ministries Food Pantry

Desert Community Christian Fellowship Church

Karen Benjamin started this wonderful ministry in November 2022.

Here are the numbers from then till December 31, 2023: 240 households to include 440 individuals, were served food boxes.

So far in 2024, we had 17 households including 31 individuals.

We definitely have a need in our community, as we expect our numbers to continue to grow.



~Continued on page 2



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

~ From Jeff D



What a beautiful time of year here in Tonto. Open doors and windows, fresh air, birds singing and a just bit of rain to wash it all down.

Our newest Board member Dennis Ferguson has taken on our Building maintenance Committee. Thank You Dennis & Congratulations. We are getting the building ready for paint, doing some deck repair, working to improve the A/V amenities in the building, and more.

I would also like to congratulate & Thank Kandis Rauch for stepping up to be our Treasurer. She is presently building her home here in Tonto and is an accounting Wiz. Welcome to our team.

And... Marcy Scott stepped up to be a Board Member and to head up our Outreach Committee. She's a local socialite that most of you may already know. Thank You and Congratulations Marcy.

Plus... (Drum roll please...) WILD WEST DAYS are coming up April 6th. There's always a lot of planning with that. There's a Poker run, Entertainment, Raffles, Music, Dancing and a lot more. Please start thinking about donations for the silent & live auctions. More details will be coming soon.

Finally, again, I'd like to thank everyone for the incredible response to this NewsPaper. Please keep the articles and information coming. Oh yes, and the advertisers, PLEASE THANK THEM for their support to our little community and the this Chamber.

Bread of Life Ministries Food Pantry ~ Continued from page 1

Thanks to Karen and our dedicated volunteers, DCCF church, Kiwanis who supplies us with gift certificates and donations, Rambo Realty, Curt's Boat storage IGA, Pinon Café - who supplies us with eggs every month, the LDS church for suppling us with turkeys and hams at the holidays, Dollar General, the VFW Auxiliary- Patti D., Butcher Hook and so many individuals who donate to this worthy cause. We could not do it without all of you- one can at a time.

Unfortunately for us, Karen has decided to sell and move to Wyoming to be with her family. As excited as I am for her, she is leaving a void and has asked me to step in her place. I am very excited to take on this role. Karen established a strong foundation, so it should be an easy transition as long as I can count on the backing of everyone who has contributed this far.

Rosanne Mitchell, 928-595-0112



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TONTO TRIBUNE

The Official Newsletter of the

Contact Information:

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Website: www.TontoBasinChamber.org

Newsletter: Info@TontoBasinChamber.org

Building Rental Reservations:

(833) 486-6862 Option 4

Online booking form. Please visit our website.

Chamber monthly meetings

every 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm

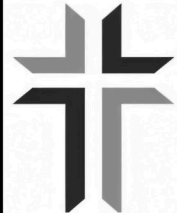
Monthly Display Ad Rates

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Business Card.....	\$20.00
3 in	\$25.00
¼ Page.....	\$40.00
½ Page	\$60.00
Full Page.....	\$100.00

Discounts available for Chamber members and Non-Profit Organizations.

To advertise, visit our website at www.TontoBasinChamber.org



DESERT COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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Tonto Basin, AZ (928) 479-2216

(Livestreaming Sunday Morning Service on Facebook)

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 AM

We have Children's Church & Nursery for little ones

Sunday Evening Bible Study: 6:00 PM



All Are Welcome!

Thursday Evening Bible Study: 6:00 PM

www.dccfchurch.com



Attract Backyard Birds with the Right Seeds

While almost all bird seed may look pretty much the same to you, it doesn't to the birds you're feeding. Knowing what kinds of seeds different birds like can help you attract a variety of fine feathered friends to your feeders.

Consider these popular seed types and the common backyard birds they attract:

Sunflower – Black sunflower seeds attract blue jays, goldfinches, woodpeckers, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and nuthatches. Striped sunflower seeds appeal to chickadees, doves, grosbeaks, northern cardinals, nuthatches, titmice and woodpeckers. Sunflower hearts (also known as "hulled sunflower" and "sunflower chips") attract chickadees, common redpolls, juncos, doves, finches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, pine siskins, titmice and woodpeckers.

Nyjer – These lightweight, tiny seeds are a favorite of goldfinches. Put nyjer seeds in a hanging feeder with tiny holes so the small seeds won't get blown away. Nyjer also attracts redpolls, juncos, doves, indigo bunting and pine siskin.

Safflower – These white seeds are slightly smaller than black sunflower seeds. Because they are bitter, grackles, blue jays, starlings – and squirrels – don't like them. However, they do attract doves, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and downy woodpeckers.

White millet – Good for scattering on the ground, white millet attracts ground feeders such as juncos, sparrows, indigo buntings, towhees and mourning doves.

Cracked corn – Popular with ground feeders, cracked corn appeals to doves, crows, jays, sparrows, juncos and towhees. Avoid getting finely cracked corn as it's vulnerable to rot and can quickly turn to mush.

When choosing a bird seed mix, pay attention to the

ingredients list on the package. Bird seed is required by law to list ingredients in order of content. Some cheaper mixes have filler seeds such as wheat, red milo, red millet or "assorted grain products." Most backyard birds won't eat those, and your seed mix could end up wasted on the ground.

Learn more about making your backyard an oasis for birds of all kinds at eLivingtoday.com.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

SOURCE: Family Features

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FEBRUARY 2024 CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	A	T	O	M	S		8	A	S	K	M	E		11	T	I	O		
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30	U	F	O				31	P	A	R	T	Y	T	R	I	C	K		
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37	A	R	E	N	A									38	L	A	T	I	N
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52	A	V	O	N			53	A	L	M	A	Y		54	I	N	N	S	
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59	D	I	D			60	P	A	Y	T	H	E	C	H	E	C	K		
66	L	D	L			67	B	L	A	S	E			68	T	I	L	D	E
69	E	S	E			70	S	T	O	P	S			71	S	P	I	C	Y



Plants That Don't Play Fair



Doesn't matter where you live, you will find "plants that don't play fair." These plants are the introduced, nonnative invasive species that have made it their business to take over landscapes, crowd out essential native plants and create unchecked, unbalanced ecosystems.

Some of the nonnative invasive plants in Tonto Basin include Cheatgrass, Star Thistle, Russian Thistle (tumbleweeds), and Stinknet.

Cheatgrass was introduced to the US in the mid to late 1800's in contaminated straw. Star Thistle arrived in CA in contaminated grain by early Spanish colonists in the 1700's. Russian Thistle was introduced in South Dakota in 1873 in contaminated flax seeds. And Stinknet, native to South Africa, was first introduced to California in 1981 and is now Arizona's fastest spreading noxious weed.

Many of the invasive plants are spread to roadsides and construction sites from machinery, recreational vehicles, and passenger cars that have come from infested areas. Seeds can be unknowingly carried on hiking boots and shoes and in hay that is not certified weed-free.

It only took 20 years for Russian Thistle to spread to 16 western states. Stinknet, first documented in Arizona in the 1990's, has virtually taken over Maricopa County is on the move to other areas in Arizona.

While the task of eradicating these invasive species seems daunting, it's important to realize that if we do nothing, we don't make a dent in their aggressive spread.

The Arizona Native Plant Society Tonto Basin Chapter invites the community to our March



23, 2024 meeting "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Gila County: ID & Control Methods" presented by Chris Jones, Gila County Cooperative Extension Agent. The presentation will be from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce, 45675 N. Arizona Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

For more info, please the AZ Native Plant Society Tonto Basin Chapter President, Becky Settje , at 972-816-6907.



Waiter: How do you like your steak, sir?

Sir: Like winning an argument with my wife.

Waiter: Rare it is

RENT THE CHAMBER



Building Reservations

Our Chamber building is available for event rentals. Included in your rental are 8ft tables and padded chairs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chamber at 1-833-4TONTOB, then select no 4 for building rental information.

TO RESERVE YOUR EVENT - Visit <https://www.tontobasinchamber.org/rent-the-chamber-building>



KEEPING UP WITH KIWANIS

Luau Thank You

Kiwanis Builders Club and K-Kids Community Wranglers Clubs want to thank everyone who purchased

a Hawaiian Dinner Ticket for February 3rd to support the students in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii after their school burned down. The kids raised \$1320 and presented a fun Luau time for the



community. The Builders Club voted at the beginning of the school year to support the Maui school as part of their Community Service outreach reaching across the globe. Thank you to the President of the Builders Club, McKayla Nichols for presenting the vote for her club. Thank you to Averie Balcom for selling the most tickets!



Are you bored?

Kiwanis Club of Tonto Basin is a club of 45 members, and an additional 6-10 volunteers join us every week. The Kiwanis Thrift Store in Punkin Center is run completely on a volunteer basis that believe in the Kiwanis motto, to serve the children of the world, one child, one community at a time. We have opportunities to work in the processing room of the thrift store or help with events like wrapping Christmas gifts for the Kids Shop Free event. Kiwanis has an event or project an average of twice a month that we need volunteers who want to have fun while serving the community. If that is something that you can relate to, we would love to have you join us! The store is open 3 days a week, Thursday- Saturday 9am to 2pm. We need volunteers

in the snack bar at Bingo every Thursday night. Recently we had a Luau Dinner Fundraiser, serving food to Veterans, helping at the Payson Rodeo and Parade, and our annual Easter Egg hunt is coming up on March 30th. Kiwanis members and volunteers work 2 to up to 25 hours a week to support the projects to serve the children of the community. Smile, be willing to make new friends, and partner with us!

Terrific Kids Program at Tonto Basin School

Tonto Basin Elementary school implemented a Kiwanis Terrific Kid Program as part of a Social Emotional Learning Grant for the school. Terrific Kid is a student recognition program, created by Kiwanis International, that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. Students have been working with their teachers on goals to improve behavior, peer relationships, attendance, or school work. Each week the kids can write a Terrific Tell when they see another student showing one of the T.E.R.R.I.F.I.C Characteristics; Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inquisitive, Friendly, Inclusive, and Caring.

Thank you for the Plastic Bottle Caps

The Tonto Basin School, Builders Club, Community Wranglers Club (K-Kids), and Terrific Kids Program have been busy collecting plastic caps for the Banco de Tapitas Non-profit that recycles the caps and sells the products created to provide chemo therapy treatments and support to cancer patients and families in Mexico. Recycling in the USA is very limited but the extra plastic caps from water, soda, food, detergents, medicine and lots of other containers are usable in Mexico. On the 100th day of school on Feb. 22rd we have collected over 100,000 bottle caps!



Meetings
Kiwanis Club of Tonto Basin meets every Friday at 8am at the Kiwanis Community Center.

Bingo
Bingo is every Thursday, doors open at 5:30pm and games start at 6:30pm.
Thrift Store
Regular Hours: Thurs thru Sat. 9am to 2pm
(928) 479-2795



“Clean and Lien” Project in Globe



Gila County District 2 Supervisor Tim Humphrey

My quest to clean up trashy/blighted properties has been challenging.

First, I fought for Dollar Dump Day, then changed policies enabling Code Enforcement to summon a property owner to appear before a subcontracted Hearing Officer licensed with the State of Arizona to conduct hearings.

If the Hearing Officer imposed a fine and the property owner did not pay, they could then be turned over to a collection agency.

Then I ran into two issues that staff and I are trying to get through.

- **One issue is that in some cases the blighted property's owner has passed away, so there is no owner of record responsible for the property to issue a citation to.**

A family member or someone else is paying the property tax which prevents the property from being sold at auction for a tax lien.

- **The second issue is properties that have been sold at a tax lien auction.**

After three years, the buyer can foreclose on the properties and own them.

If the buyer does not foreclose and becomes the legal owner, they can leave the property in an unowned status for up to 10 years.

This property is located at 4362 and 4368 E. Copper Street and is one of those properties.

This property could have been foreclosed on in 2021,

which means this property can stay in limbo until 2031 providing the sub-tax is paid.

A portion of this property became so bad that we were able to have the Health Department deem it a health hazard.

This allowed us to clean it up, but only the portion that created the health hazard.

I am thankful for County Management, the Health Department, and the County Attorney's office for trying to help deal with the obstacles that rural counties must deal with due to State laws.

All of us that own property pay taxes and are liable for the property we own.

It is my opinion that if you are paying property taxes on property in Arizona, you should be held liable.



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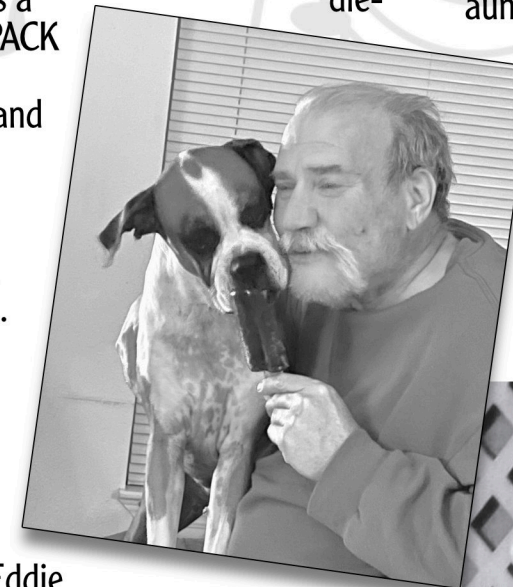
Kenneth Byron Butzlaff

9/4/1961 - 1/19/2024

Kenneth B. Butzlaff of Tonto Basin, AZ passed away peacefully on Friday January 19th, 2024 with his wife, Paula by his side. He was

born and raised in Oshkosh, WI. Moved to Tucson, AZ in 1996 where he met his wife of 27 years and worked for the Arizona Department of Corrections.

If you knew him, you would know how much he loved Football. He was a hard Packer fan. GO PACK GO! He also enjoyed Basketball, Baseball, and NASCAR. He enjoyed playing golf, fishing, cards, shuffleboard, cornhole, Wii Bowling, and listening to music. Kenny was a great doggie Dad to his fur babies Lambeau, Sadie, and Chanel. He loved animals and recently fell in love with a Rhino named Eddie at the San Diego Zoo.



Twelve years ago, he made Tonto Basin his home. He loved the small community and quickly made many friends who he called his extended family. He enjoyed the pool parties, birthday parties, and Christmas parties or any gathering with his friends. Cooking was something he liked to do and would especially like to share his dishes



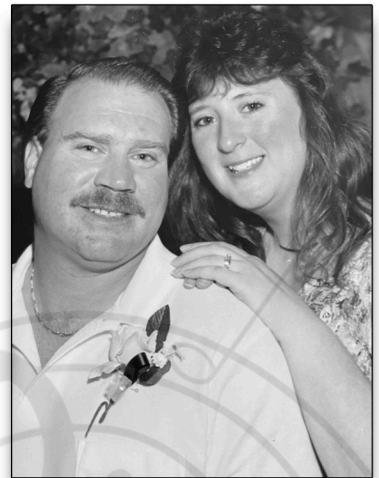
with everyone.

What a character he was. Halloween became one of his favorite days to celebrate. This was Kenny's and Paula's special day as this is their wedding anniversary and they dressed up as some memorable characters together such as Fred and Wilma Flintstone, Popeye and Olive Oyl, and Shrek and Fiona. He made the best Shrek. Kenny always loved to have a good time and enjoyed people.

Preceded in death are his father, mother, brother and grandparents. He is survived by his wife, sister, brothers-in-law's, nieces, nephews, cousins and aunts.

There will be a Celebration of Life, Saturday March 23rd at noon at the Butcher Hook in Tonto Basin, AZ.

Kenny's wish would be that any memorial tributes be made to either Boxer Luv Rescue at www.boxerluv.org or San Diego Zoo at sdzwa.org/memorial.



FISHING

Local Fishing Report

~ Valerie Spencer

Here it is, the start of March. Spring break is gearing up and the lake will be busy with visitors from everywhere. For those who are new to the area our beautiful lake is home to black crappie, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow bass, and flathead catfish. Crappie are nearing the end of their spawning season. They are being reported in the 20 ft range and because the lake is beginning to clear up a bit the lighter crank baits and the plastic curly tails are doing well.

Bass fishing is reported to be good as well. We just finished a tournament, and another will take place in April. LetsTalkFishin.com is a great resource for the serious angler. Frog baits, poppers, and 2" to 6" plastics are reported to be effective.

Currently the lake is at 87 percent capacity.

Badger	94 ft
Bobcat	18 ft
Cholla	86 ft
Coyote	30 ft
Grapevine	45 ft
Indian Point.....	34 ft
Marina 4 leg.....	50 ft
Marina dogleg	70 ft
Ring tail	63 ft
Schoolhouse	30 ft



Habitat improvement summary at Roosevelt lake

Roosevelt Lake Project

Most years, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) collects disposed Christmas trees or receives donated unused Christmas trees from around the state to place in reservoirs. A majority of Arizona's reservoirs are manmade, and over time, fish habitat such as woody debris degrades, leaving behind less than optimal habitat for fish. The goal of these ongoing projects is to enhance sportfish habitat and congregate fish for fishermen.

Christmas trees are a great fish habitat enhancement tool mainly because of the relatively low cost of materials, the natural habitat they provide that boosts productivity in the reservoir, and the engagement with the community. Public feedback is very positive as people like to hear that the trees they enjoyed during the holidays are being recycled for the benefit of sportfish in their local reservoirs. Volunteers also get the satisfaction of actually seeing the whole thing happen and being a part of assembling and deploying the habitat.

The Christmas trees are tied to at least one cinder
~Continued on Page 9



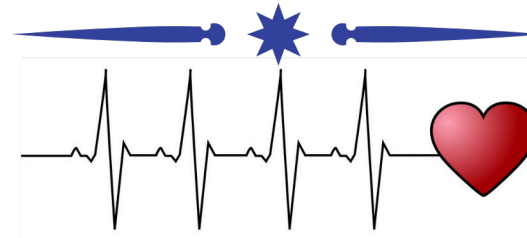
Habitat improvement summary at Roosevelt lake ~ Continued from Page 8

block with rope and loaded onto a pontoon boat before being driven out to the selected sites and pushed off. They are kept grouped together at the bottom to ensure that diverse habitat is created. Algae will grow on these trees, attracting plankton and smaller fish to the habitat. This in turn creates great feeding opportunities for the larger predator fish and a better angling experience.

This year AZGFD and volunteers went above and beyond and collected the most trees ever, with approximately 2,215 trees going into Roosevelt Lake. Whitfill Nurseries donated approximately 900 trees, while the City of Gilbert delivered around 600 trees collected from their Christmas tree drop-off locations. On top of that, roughly 700 trees were collected from the City of Mesa's Christmas tree drop-off locations. In addition, the town of Payson contributed another 50 trees from town residents.

This monumental effort occurred over the course of three install dates, January 20, 26, and 30. There were 41 volunteers who installed the trees in 16 different locations. Trees were placed in a range of depths from 20 to 60 feet and should provide quality habitat for three to five years.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the Whitfill Nurseries, the City of Mesa, the Town of Gilbert, Tonto National Forest, Tonto Basin Ranger District, volunteers, and up to six separate work units within AZGFD.



Your heart is talking... are You listening?

~ Teri Balaska RN

Did you know that you have cells in your heart that are the same as the nerve cells in your brain? These cells relay messages from the outside world, help us think about what is going on and how to relate to it. What we may call "heart felt feelings".

In our culture we often depend on logic to make decisions, or even to determine if something is valid or not. Often, "following one's heart" was looked down upon as being invalid.

News alert...science (for you logically minded folks) shows this isn't so. Our heart and brain are continually communicating back and forth.

Our brain tells us "right from wrong" our heart tells us it just "is".

Think about why you love someone. Logically, you can list any number of traits, yet other people that have those same traits, you don't love. So, why do you love someone? Perhaps the "heart of the matter is a matter of the heart". In other words, your neural cells in the heart were "speaking" to you. On the other hand, can you recall, logically wanting to do something, or be with someone, yet you felt a tad odd, like you shouldn't? With the science being explored now, this just may have been a matter of your heart giving you information different from your logical brain.

Logic of our brain and feelings in our heart are talking back and forth. Are you listening?



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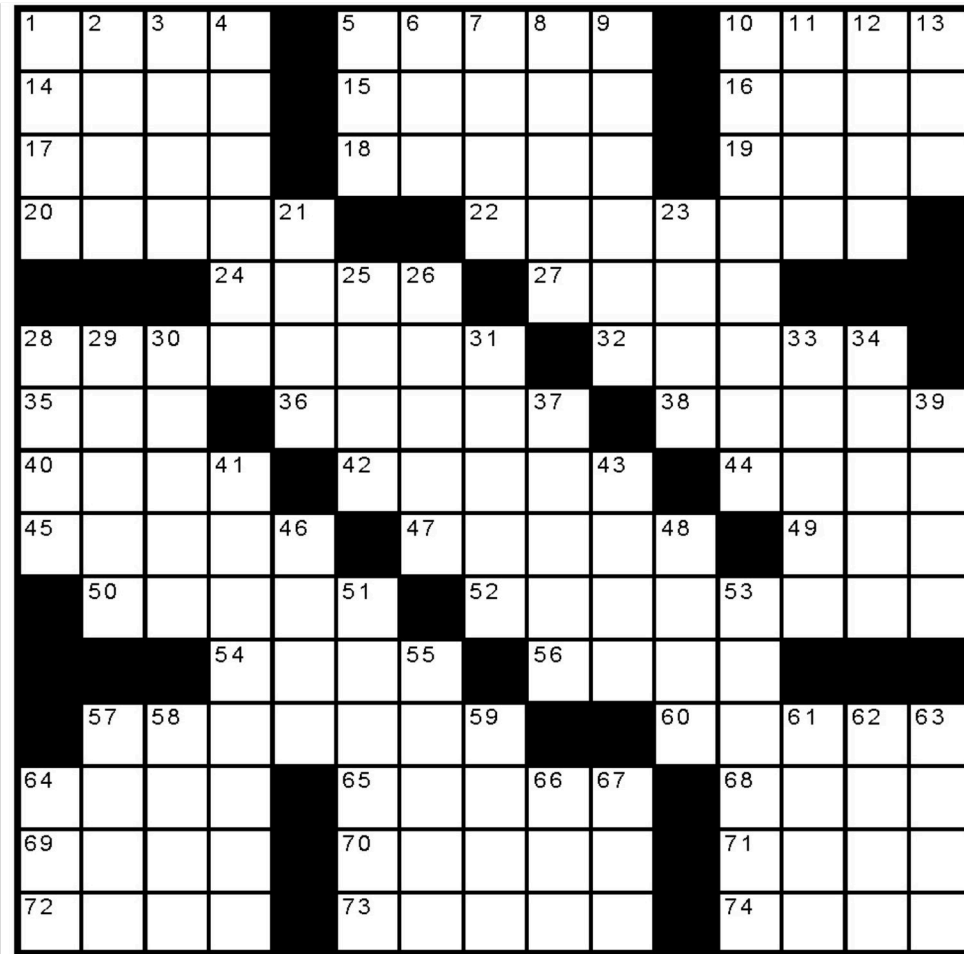
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Across

- 1. "Smooth Operator" singer
- 5. Join the cast of
- 10. Envelope part
- 14. Mtn. stat
- 15. Not hesitant
- 16. "My fault!"
- 17. Greet the judge
- 18. Ethical
- 19. Final notice?
- 20. Undercover operation
- 22. Abbreviate
- 24. "Chicken of the sea"
- 27. Some bills
- 28. Baffle
- 32. Fills to the gills
- 35. Some docs
- 36. Did a blacksmith's job
- 38. Office notes
- 40. Bank transaction
- 42. White as a ghost
- 44. Soccer legend
- 45. Register
- 47. Spooky
- 49. Campers, for short
- 50. Dam extending across the Nile



- 6. Corp. bigwig
- 7. Sailors
- 8. Boise's state
- 9. Hose
- 10. The sound of somebody walking
- 11. Ear part
- 12. Neat as ___
- 13. L.A. clock setting
- 21. Wrigley varieties
- 23. Quantity of paper
- 25. Okinawa port
- 26. Came up
- 28. Eyeball
- 29. Once ___ time...
- 30. Autocratic Russian rulers
- 31. Little laugh
- 33. Board material
- 34. Work out
- 37. Skin layer
- 39. Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko
- 41. Currently
- 43. Bites
- 46. Whip
- 48. Lodge members
- 51. Required
- 53. Donny or Marie
- 55. ___ blanche
- 57. Film spool
- 58. First name in jazz
- 59. Promote
- 61. "The Time Machine" people
- 62. Low-cal
- 63. Nailed obliquely
- 64. Mexican Mrs.
- 66. Form of poem, often used to praise something
- 67. Pay-___-view

See last month's crossword puzzle solution on page 3

3 Ways to Support Veterans in Your Community

As a group, United States military veterans have played an important role in protecting the rights and freedoms enjoyed today. However, the sacrifices made by service members can become easy to overlook with the passage of time. For example, consider the experiences of Pfc. Antonio Ralph Martinez, one of 2,223 U.S. military servicemen aboard the Leopoldville, a Belgian transport ship. Ahead of the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive of World War II, the Leopoldville was crossing the English Channel from England to France when a German U-boat struck it with a torpedo on Dec. 24, 1944.

In an interview for the Library of

Congress Veterans History Project, Martinez recalled the ship zigzagging across the channel to dodge possible attacks. He was playing cards and jolted forward when the torpedo hit. Under blackout conditions, Martinez jumped to a nearby destroyer, sliding down a rope into the frigid water, where he stayed, developing hypothermia, until being rescued by a tugboat after about two hours.

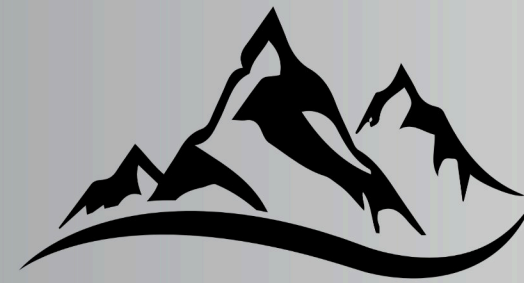
Of those on board the Leopoldville, 515 are presumed to have gone down with the ship while another 248 died from injuries, drowning or hypothermia. Martinez was awarded a Bronze Star for his combat service during World War II and later served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Stories like Martinez's showcase the valor and sacrifice of veterans who deserve gratitude. Consider



these three small gestures to help show appreciation to the veterans in your community as they reacclimate to civilian life following their service. *~Continued on Page 12*

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~Continued from Page 11

Send a "Thank You" Card

Offering a heartfelt acknowledgment of the challenges veterans faced is one of the simplest ways to show them your appreciation and provide an emotional boost. If you know a veteran in your community, consider sending a handwritten "thank you" note. Or consult with a local veterans service organization that may be able to help you share a letter, card, care package or supportive email with former military personnel in your area.

Encourage Veterans to Share Their Stories

The stories veterans carry with them are powerful and often help shape who they are. These stories can hold valuable lessons, details of accomplishments and battles won or memories of friendship and camaraderie. They can also serve as reminders of sacrifice and hardship.

Through the Veterans History Project, the Library of Congress collects and preserves the firsthand remembrances of U.S. military veterans like Martinez and makes them accessible. The project allows future generations to hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.

Participating in the program involves submitting a 30-minute (or longer) unedited video or audio interview sharing service details and/or a collection of original photographs or correspondence. Veterans, or families of deceased veterans on their behalf, may also submit a minimum 20-page journal or unpublished memoir and/or 10 or more original photos or letters. To get started, visit loc.gov/vets and click "How to Participate"

to download a how-to field kit for details, instructions and required forms.

Volunteer at Veterans Facilities or Organizations

Many veterans organizations, including Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and medical facilities, welcome

volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks such as clerical work, organization, transportation and simply visiting with wounded veterans to brighten their days. After locating a facility near you, contact the staff to arrange a visit and learn more about opportunities to volunteer your time and skills.

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