

## Obituaries

### Mary Emma Berkey

April 25, 1918 - December 2, 2017

Mary Emma Berkey, age 99, passed in her sleep December 2, 2017, at her home in Hillsboro.

Mary Emma was born on April 25, 1918, in Cloverdale, Oregon. She was the eldest of two daughters born to William Clent and Ruth (Holmes) King.

She was raised and received her education in Tillamook, graduating from Tillamook High School with the Class of

1936. After graduation, Mary Emma worked at the Tillamook-Portland Auto Freight as a secretary, and was a civilian office worker at the Naval Air Station/Blimp Base during WWII.

She married Don Berkey in Tillamook on July 14, 1945 when he returned from overseas. When Don retired from banking in 1982 they became snowbirds in Yuma, Arizona.

After Don's death in 2002, Mary Emma spent 6 months of each year with her son and family in Yuma, Arizona and 6 months with Claudia and her family until she moved to Hillsboro in 2015.

Mary Emma was a loving and devoted mother, an avid golfer, bridge player and seamstress, and loved trailering. She was a wonderful and gracious hostess. Mary Emma was always very involved in the Episcopal Church and P.E. O. wherever she and Don lived.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 57 years, Don, her sister, Jane Kerr, and her parents.

Survivors include her three children and their spouses: Greg and Loi Dene Berkey of Yuma, Arizona; Harvey and Nancy Berkey of Rock Creek, Oregon; Claudia Berkey Cogle of Milwaukie, Oregon; her four grandchildren: Dan, Shannon, Emily and Nathan; two great-grandchildren, Donald and Brandon, and one great-great grandson, Daniel, along with her special nieces and nephews, and her dear friend, Ferriell DeLap.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to a charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm at St John the Evangelist Episcopal Church; 2036 SE Jefferson St. in Milwaukie, Oregon on January 6, 2018.

A complete obituary and guestbook is at [dfuneralhome.com](http://dfuneralhome.com)

Services by Duyck & VandeHey Funeral Homes (503)357-8749.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun)

### Gene Marie Finnell

October 28, 1942 - December 2, 2017

Gene Marie Finnell, 75, formerly from Leavenworth, Kansas, passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2017, after a short battle with brain cancer.

She was born October 28, 1942, to Michael and Lucille (Spicer) Sienkowski in Leavenworth, Kansas. She graduated from Leavenworth High School in 1960.

She married John J. Finnell on August 19, 1961. He survives at their home in Yuma, Arizona.

She is also survived by her three children, Jeanette (Scott) Pine of Lexington, SC, John (Lisa) Finnell of Lincoln, NE, and Brenda (Jeremiah) Houck of Colorado Springs, CO, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Scott A. Finnell.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Yuma, Arizona, on Saturday, January 27, at 9 a.m. Inurnment will follow at the church columbarium. Memorials are suggested to the Farmer's House, 415 Main St., Weston, MO 64098. Please sign the guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun)

For questions or to place an obituary, call 783-4433 or place online at [ClassifiedsinYuma.com](http://ClassifiedsinYuma.com).

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### Salvador Camacho

Salvador Camacho, 84, of Yuma, died Dec. 17, 2017, in Yuma.

Born Dec. 7, 1933, in Mexico, he was an agricultural laborer.

A wake will be 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Desert Valley Mortuary, with rosary at 6 p.m. Deacon Coronado will officiate. Mass will be 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Father Rolando officiating. Burial will follow at Desert Lawn, with Deacon Carbajal officiating.

### Doraly Correa

Doraly Correa, 41, of Somerton, died Dec. 14, 2017, in Yuma.

Born Aug. 11, 1976, in Mexicali, Son., she was a teacher.

A wake will begin 5 p.m. Wednesday at Desert Valley Mortuary Chapel, with rosary at 7 p.m.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial will be 12:30 p.m. Friday at Desert Lawn.

### Levi Correa

Levi Correa, 6, of Somerton, died Dec. 15, 2017, in Phoenix.

He was born Sept. 30, 2011, in Yuma.

A wake will begin 5 p.m. Wednesday at Desert Valley Mortuary Chapel, with rosary at 7 p.m. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial will be 12:30 p.m. Friday at Desert Lawn.

## Pregnant Ariz. woman shot while sleeping, baby survives

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Ariz. — Authorities in southern Arizona say a pregnant woman was shot and killed in her sleep when someone opened fire on her home, but doctors were able to deliver her baby.

The Tucson Police Department said in a news release that several others in the home were asleep when they awoke around 4:30 a.m. Saturday to the sounds of 19-year-old Jasmine Vega screaming.

Arriving officers found her unconscious. She was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

Vega was six months pregnant. Police said the baby survived delivery and is being treated at the hospital.

No other details about the newborn's condition were given.

Police say evidence indicates multiple gunshots were fired into the home. It's not yet known if anyone was specifically targeted.

# Judge partially lifts Trump refugee ban

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — A federal judge in Seattle on Saturday partially lifted a Trump administration ban on certain refugees after two groups argued that the policy prevented people from some mostly Muslim countries from reuniting with family living legally in the United States.

U.S. District Judge James Robert heard arguments Thursday in lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union and Jewish Family Service, which say the ban causes irreparable harm and puts some people at risk. Government lawyers argued that the ban is needed to protect national security.

Robert ordered the federal government to process certain refugee applications. He said his order applies to people "with a bona fide relationship to a person or entity within the United States."

President Donald Trump restarted the refugee program in October "with enhanced vetting capabilities."

The day before his executive order, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke and Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats sent a memo to Trump saying certain refugees must be banned unless additional security measures are implemented. It applies to the spouses

and minor children of refugees who have already settled in the U.S. and suspends the refugee program for people coming from 11 countries, nine of which are mostly Muslim.

In his decision, Robert wrote that "former officials detailed concretely how the Agency Memo will harm the United States' national security and foreign policy interests."

Robert said his order restores refugee procedures in programs to what they were before the memo and noted that this already includes very thorough vetting of individuals.

In a statement, Department of Justice spokeswoman Lauren Ehrman said: "We disagree with the

Court's ruling and are currently evaluating the next steps."

The ACLU argued the memo provided no evidence for why additional security was needed and didn't specify a timeframe for implementing the changes. The groups say the process for imposing the policy violated a federal law.

August Flentje, a Justice Department attorney, told the judge that the ban is temporary and "is a reasonable and appropriate way for agency heads to tackle gaps" in the screening process.

The lawsuits from the two groups were consolidated and represent refugees who have been blocked from entering the country.

## YRMC

FROM PAGE A1

care requires what's called a split bill — commercial payers do not. Prior to October, we did not do a split bill for our commercial patients because we essentially have these contracted rates and so forth.

"Once the new billing module went into effect it created a split bill for all patients," he continued. "Then, once we identified that the issue was that these bills were going to these patients' deductibles and so forth, that is when we held submitting any

new claims. We figured out how many patients this impacted, how many patients have paid a bill and how many are in the process. We've just been in the recovery process for the last few weeks."

Headington added that the organization has been calling patients and will be sending out letters to inform the patients of the situation. The fee was in the amount of about \$205 and may have been listed as a "facility fee" she said.

For questions or more information, call YRMC Patient Financial Services at (928) 336-7030.



FILE PHOTO BY RACHEL TWOGUNS/YUMA SUN

THOSE PATIENTS WITH commercial insurance who received services between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30 at Yuma Regional Medical Center Family Medicine Center and specialty clinics on Tuscany Plaza may have noticed a fee that the organization says resulted from a billing system error. For questions or more information, call YRMC Patient Financial Services at (928) 336-7030.

## GROWTH

FROM PAGE A1

major expansions, such as InsulTech, a California-based manufacturer of insulation products; Alsie Window Company; ThermoTech, a plastics tooling, molding and assembly company; and S+A Industries, which manufactures parts for Toyota trucks. Sunset Community Health Center is also in the middle of expanding its facilities on South Avenue B.

The city also landed MPW Industrial Services, which announced plans to create 44 jobs with a water regeneration plant.

Yumans eagerly awaited several retail stores that opened this year, including Sprouts Farmers Market and Sportsman's Warehouse, and several new restaurants, like Black Bear Diner. The Littlewood Fine Art and Community Co-op also opened this year on South 2nd Avenue.

Developers announced plans for two new major hotels, a four-story Home2 Suites by Hilton will be built on the northeast corner of 1st Street and Madison Avenue and Yuma's first Four Points by Sheraton Hotel will be built on South Avenue 3E, next to the Holiday Day Inn Express and Candlewood Suites, along Interstate 8.

The 58-unit Mesa Heights Apartments, a \$13.8 million housing development for low- and moderate-income families, is currently being built on Arizona Avenue, between 20th and 22nd streets.

The city saw several of its own projects come to fruition. The now-branded Center Pointe intersection at 16th Street and 4th Avenue was completed. The \$7.25 million widening project added a third through-lane, dedicated right-turn lanes and dual left-turn lanes in all four directions. It also includes bike lanes, raised medians and other improvements.

Now that the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex opened Sept. 1, the city expects an economic impact of at least \$1.3 million a year if it can get at least 20 new tournaments per year. The \$14.2 million, six-field athletic complex was built

on 50 acres near the Yuma Palms shopping center, at the corner of Pacific Avenue and 8th Street.

The 16th Street water tanks, located off I-8, were repainted with the city's logo, a project that at first dismayed some local residents but now they seem to like the finished product with some asking the city to put the artwork on T-shirts and other items. The city is still considering that request.

The Joe Henry Gym now has air conditioning, a big deal for kids who want to play basketball in the summer. Previously the city had to close the gym in the summer due to the excessive temperatures.

The council adopted the Infill Overlay District and Plan to encourage development of vacant lots and old buildings that have fallen into disrepair in the historical parts of town. The Infill Overlay District identifies properties within the city that qualify for development or redevelopment incentives. An inventory identified 448 vacant properties in the district. The ordinance has been recognized with a "State of Planning" award from the American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter.

The city entered into a contract with anyCOMM Holdings Corp. for the installation of a city-wide network of nodes on city infrastructure, such as streetlights and traffic boxes. The devices have the ability to provide lighting control, a gigabit-speed wireless mesh network, cellular carrier offload capabilities, digital video recording and other uses.

The project is being done in conjunction with a conversion to LED streetlights by Siemens Industry. The city estimates that at full implementation, it will save more than \$100,000 per year in maintenance costs and more than \$250,000 a year in energy costs. The cost to replace the city's 7,500 streetlights to LEDs will be about \$3.7 million, which will come from the city's road tax fund.

Yuma continues to work with 4FrontED, which brought MarTech to the city. "It looks like that relationship is really working out well," Wilkinson noted.

"Next year there will be more announcements."

Mayor Doug Nicholls launched the regional initiative to attract businesses in partnership with Mexico. Regional partners GYEDC, Yuma County, Wellton, Somerton and San Luis work together to establish a strong working relationship with Mexican companies and agencies like PIMSA and Copresan, which is similar to Greater Yuma Economic Development Corp.

Of all the 2017 achievements, what is Wilkinson most proud of? "The community and employees. With the employees, they had a few tough years to get through. We had to cut back. Employees are doing a really good job serving the community," he said.

As for the community, "Yuma isn't facing the issues going on in the rest of the country, like law enforcement protests. This community is a very patriotic, safety-oriented community. We pull together and work with each other like no place I've seen," Wilkinson said.

He expects the city will continue to face the same challenges, like lack of funding to fix roads.

"We're doing the best with the money we have. Eventually the state will have to start returning funds or we're going to have to find the money to fix roads. There's not enough money," he said.

He points to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System as the No. 2 challenge facing the city. In 2017, the unfunded liability for the city was \$99.8 million.

"It will continue to be that way. We need to work with the community to figure out how to fix the roads and retirement system," Wilkinson said.

Another concern for the coming year is the return of battles over the rights to Colorado River water.

"The water battles were handled several years ago, but they're back. We have to make sure our guard is

up and people don't take our water, not just city but the Yuma area. We will work hand-in-hand with agriculture community," Wilkinson explained.

The city will also work with the ag industry to address some of the internet broadband issues growers have had with cellular phone carriers. Service is indispensable, but Yuma County still has checkerboard service or no service in some areas.

"Yuma is a larger city, but we're still in a rural area. We need to make sure companies are provided with what they're paying for," Wilkinson said.

The city experienced some changes in staff this past year. Deputy City Administrator Ricky Rinehart left the city and Ron Corbin, formerly the head of human resources, stepped into his place. Monica Welch moved up from within the department to become the new HR head.

Kathleen Fernandez was named the new chief information officer. Jeff Burt came in as the new economic development administrator, and Jeff Kramer became the new city engineer.

"Both (Burt and Kramer) are very well known and highly respected in the state," Wilkinson said, noting they could probably have worked anywhere they wanted, but they chose Yuma.

"Yuma's really on the map now," he added, pointing out that 110 people applied for the position of deputy administrator and 80 applied for the IT chief position.

For the next year, Wilkinson is looking forward to the anyCOMM implementation mid-year. Not only will the city be saving money with LEDs streetlights, but the anyCOMM wireless nodes should bring in additional bandwidth capabilities and make the city a safer place.

"For the next year, things look like they will be good," Wilkinson said.

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