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Yuma Sun

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

121st YEAR, 234th ISSUE

California wildfires spread to San Diego County /B3

Today's high: 69°
 Details on C6

\$1.00



Animal rescue home seeks new site

Old Souls owners pay fine, look to also house recovering addicts at future location

BY BLAKE HERZOG
 @BLAKEHERZOG

The owners of Old Souls Animal Rescue and Retirement Home were ordered Thursday to pay a \$50 fine to Yuma County for one violation of its zoning ordinance by having too many dogs on their property, and are partnering with another nonprofit as they look for a new home for the animal rescue.

Zoning Hearing Officer Jerry Cook closed out a case that began this summer with a complaint from the family of a next-door neighbor to the rescue group, which takes in elderly and sick dogs without a home, adopting and fostering them out when possible.

Cook reduced the original \$100 fine he had levied at an earlier hearing because the shade structure had been moved shortly after

the county's original complaint, but rebuffed a request from owners Paula and Isaac Rivadeneira to waive the remaining penalty.

"We did not get the permit, and we are asking that you waive the fee in light of the \$750 we spent in the effort to get it approved; we were hoping you would waive the fine," Paula Rivadeneira said.

Cook said he couldn't do that because they are still over the limit with 10 dogs at their home,

and the couple paid the fine to the county shortly after the hearing.

While investigating the original complaint, officials found two zoning violations at the Rivadeneiras' home at 11262 S. Holland Ave.: their 18 dogs were over the limit of five permitted under their zoning, and a shade structure had been placed too close to their property line.

This led to their applying separately to the county for a special

use permit to operate a kennel on their property, which failed at the Yuma County Board of Supervisors in November after it faced stiff opposition from within its subdivision, despite strong support elsewhere in the community and an online petition that got more than 300,000 signers from around the world.

The board's 3-2 vote was in Old Souls' favor but not enough

SEE SOULS/A5

Local American Legion remembers Pearl Harbor



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RETIRE U.S. NAVY CAPT. DEAN "DOC" HAGER (LEFT) TALKS WITH WORLD WAR II VETERAN CONNIE TYREE at H.H. Donkersley American Legion Post 19 before the start of Thursday morning's National Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Day commemoration ceremony. Hager was the ceremony's guest speaker. Ron Fillman checks out a display of memorabilia (in photo at right) at the event.



PHOTOS BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN

Ceremony rekindles many memories for veterans

BY JAMES GILBERT
 @YSJAMESGILBERT

Wednesday morning's Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremony at Yuma's H. H. Donkersley American Legion Post No. 19 rekindled many memories from those in attendance, including veteran Frank Clark, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy in October of 1945.

"I was just a baby-faced kid. Back then the country was so patriotic," the now 88-year-old Clark said. "My brothers were in, my uncle was in, I just wanted to do my duty. I will be patriotic until the day the good Lord takes me."

Clark, a Pittsburgh native, said he served for six years. For five years and four months of that, was he



A DECK HATCH FROM THE U.S.S. ARIZONA, SUNK DURING THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR on Dec. 7, 1941, sits outside the front entrance to H.H. Donkersley American Legion Post 19, 2575 S. Virginia Drive. The inscription reads, "This memorial is dedicated to Donald G. Stratton, survivor." U.S. Navy, World War II and Korean War veteran Frank Clark (center) talks about his memories of World War II. Fred Richard, H.H. Donkersley American Legion Post 19 commander, talks about the commemoration ceremony (right).

was stationed at various places and on different ships in the Pacific, including time on the Japanese Occupational Force.

The commemoration ceremony, held on the 76th anniversary of the surprise attack that hurled the U.S. into World War II, was

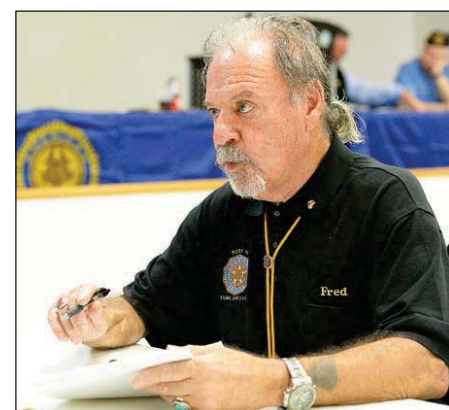
intended to honor military personnel from every branch of service, both past and present, and remember the events of that tragic day.

The losses suffered in the surprise attack were devastating. There were 2,403 killed and 1,178 wounded,



along with four American battleships sunk and nearly 350 aircraft damaged or completely destroyed.

Post commander Fred Richard was the master of ceremonies for the event, and when he spoke to the crowd, which included four other World War II veter-



ans, he spoke about the need to remember, not just on the day of its anniversary, but every day.

"We all know that sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance," said Richard, a Vietnam-era veteran who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 23.

Richards added that National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which was established in 1994, is just as important as Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

"After the last bomb is dropped, the last enemy

SEE PEARL/A5

Study: Yuma still ag leader; industry contributes \$1.1B to local GDP

BY MARA KNAUB
 @YSMARAKNAUB

Yuma is to agriculture as Napa is to wine, Detroit is to cars and Silicon Valley is to computer technology.

It's no surprise to locals, but now a study has confirmed it. Or rather, reconfirmed it.

Ashley Kerna Bickel, an economic impact analyst with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, presented the

results of the study, titled "Arizona Leafy Greens: Economic Contributions of the Industry Cluster — 2015 Economic Contribution Analysis," released in the fall.

The presentation from the Tucson-based Bickel was part of Yuma Area Agricultural Council's Agriculture Grows Yuma Tour, which began Thursday eve-

ning with a reception and dinner.

Among the findings:

- Yuma is a national leader in the production of many agricultural commodities, in particular leafy greens such as lettuce but also vegetables and melons and other small grain crops.
- Yuma plays a critical role in the year-round supply of lettuce for domestic consumption.
- At the most productive point in the season, Arizona — in particular Yuma County — shipped

an average of 82 percent of the nation's lettuce

- Yuma accounts for a large majority of Arizona's crop cash receipts.
- Agriculture is a major driver of the Yuma economy.
- Crop, livestock and ag support service industries employ 63 times the national average.
- Agriculture and support industries is the leading private industry, contributing \$1.1 billion to Yuma's gross domestic prod-

uct, or the monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within a region's borders, usually called "value added."

Bickel noted that Yuma County ranks second nationally for harvested acreage for lettuce (69,748 acres) and spinach (7,160).


Yuma County produces a large majority of Arizona's leafy greens: 97 percent of the state's harvested acreage of lettuce and

SEE AG/A5




Sunday, December 10th, 2017
Helping Hands of Yuma/AMVETS
BBQ BABY BACK PORK RIBS DINNER
FUNDRAISER

All proceeds will go to benefit the efforts of Helping Hands and AMVETS to serve our Senior/Veteran population in Yuma County. Helping Hands is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Charitable organization providing free services to seniors 60 and above to live as independently as possible in their own homes AMVETS is a nonprofit service organization providing assistance and support to veteran's causes and needs



Helping Hands of Yuma
 Hands to Help. Hearts to Serve.



\$17.50 per person
 Tickets on Sale in Advance

3-6pm

Tickets Available at:
 Helping Hands of Yuma
 (928) 305-9974 and AMVETS of Yuma POST 2
 (928) 726-0102

Dinner includes:
 BBQ baby back pork ribs
 Smash potatoes
 Cole slaw
 Baked beans, Roll

Dinner Held at
AMVETS
 8887 S Frontage Rd, Yuma, AZ 85365 • (928) 726-0102