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Yuma Sun

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

121st YEAR, 250th ISSUE

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Details on C7

\$2.00



YEAR IN REVIEW



YUMA SUN FILE PHOTOS

LEFT: THE \$14.2 MILLION, SIX-FIELD Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex was built on 50 acres near the Yuma Palms shopping center, at the corner of Pacific Avenue and 8th Street, and opened Sept. 1. **MIDDLE:** Customers wait for the doors to open at the new Sprouts Farmers Market the morning of July 26. **RIGHT:** Black bears hang inside and out and all around the Black Bear Diner, which opened in July at the corner of 16th Street and Pacific Avenue in the Yuma Palms shopping center.

Growth highlights year for Yuma

BY MARA KNAUB
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'New things are coming up all over the place,' says city admin

Don't be surprised if you're having a hard time finding a contractor to do some work. Construction in Yuma has gone up 20 percent in the last year. Projects are popping up all over town: new construction, expansions, renovations, small and large projects. It's no won-

der that every contractor seems to be booked. The Yuma Sun sat down with City Administrator Greg Wilkinson to review the city's achievements for 2017, and construction was a very big part of it. "It's been a very successful year for the community. The construction industry

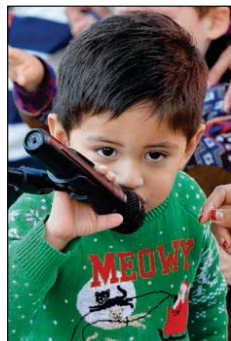
is doing really well. New things are coming up all over the place," Wilkinson said. This growth reflects the efforts by the local city government to be business-friendly by reducing development fees 40 to 60 percent in all categories to make it less costly for a new busi-

ness to locate here and less costly for new construction. The city also reduced the water and sewer capacity fees for new hookups and businesses. "We will continue solidifying the business-friendly. It's really kind of taking hold with people looking for new places to expand.

We're starting to get people calling us wanting to come (to Yuma)," Wilkinson said. "We work hard to be business-friendly. For the year overall it was a really good year," he added. Every company that relocates or expands into the area brings new jobs and increased revenues

for the city. And many companies and organizations have done just that. Almark Foods is building a 120,000-square-foot egg processing plant. MarTech, a medical device manufacturer, opened a plant in the Ramster Industrial Park and will ship \$100 million worth of products across the globe. Several companies had

SEE GROWTH/AS



Angel voices

PHOTOS BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN
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TOP RIGHT: Lillian Lee (left) and Jesse Fritz belt out a version of "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" during the Dr. Kathryn A. Watson Child Development Learning Laboratory (CDLL) annual holiday program Tuesday on the Arizona Western College main campus. Lee and Fritz are in the CDLL preschool program. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Performing in a holiday program means showing up wearing your best stuff, including dresses, hats and ties. **FIRST MIDDLE:** Children in the Toddler 2s program get ready to belt out "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** Annabelle Lee, in the Toddler 2s program, holds onto the microphone with some adult assistance as she sings "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" with her classmates. **ABOVE:** Andre Juarez tells the audience, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" after he and his CDLL classmates sang "Feliz Navidad" to end the holiday program performance.



YRMC works to fix billing errors

Some fees incorrect due to system change

BY RACHEL TWOGUNS
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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 Tuscan Plaza may have noticed a fee that the organization says resulted from a billing system error.

"On Oct. 1 we went live with a new billing system," said Justin Farren, VP of Strategy and Development at YRMC. "It created a split bill for patients that essentially caused this issue that we identified in November. We held all future kinds of bills being processed, we have been contacting patients, working to reprocess all of those bills and refund patients appropriately."

Machele Headington, Vice President Marketing & Support Services at YRMC, noted that patients are being refunded any over-payment that they made as a result of an incorrect facility fee.

"It all had to do with this new billing module," Farren explained. "We make upgrades to our technical systems and our billing systems and so forth. Medi-

SEE YRMC/AS

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