

Obituary

Timothy W. Rooney

February 4, 1945 - December 21, 2018

Timothy W. Rooney passed away at his home in Phoenix, on December 21, 2018. Tim was born in Phoenix on February 4, 1945.

His family moved to Yuma in 1949. He was a graduate of Immaculate Conception Catholic School and Yuma High School. He lettered in four sports at YHS, was President of Associated Men Students and was a member of the Future Farmers of America. Tim graduated in 1963 and attended Arizona Western College where he was a member of the wrestling team.

He graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1968 with a degree in Police Science and enlisted in the U.S. Army.

While in the military he attended Infantry Officer Candidate School, Airborne School, Ranger School and the Army Aviation School. Tim served two tours in South Vietnam as a helicopter pilot and was medically retired from the service because of injuries. He was a life long member of the American Legion and was inducted into the Yuma High School Hall of Fame individually and as member of the 1963 state championship wrestling team.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Martha Rooney.

Tim is survived by his brothers, Mike and Pat and sister, Kathy.

During his life Tim valued his faith, family, country and friends. He will be buried next to his parents in St. Francis Catholic Cemetery in Phoenix at a later date. Please sign the guestbook at www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun

For questions or to place an obituary, call 783-4433 or place online at ClassifiedsinYuma.com.



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PHOTO BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN

AN AMERICAN COOT, also known as a "Mud Hen," makes tracks across the Colorado River near Centennial Beach in West Wetlands Park early Friday morning.

FOWL

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Supplee said the Imperial Reservoir, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and Mistry Lake are also being declared "globally important bird areas" due to the endangered bird's presence, and the Cibola refuge has "continental importance" for the huge number of migratory species with a presence there.

These IBAs were created in partnership with various government agencies who own/manage the dif-

ferent areas, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arizona Fish & Game, and the Cocopah Tribe, Supplee said.

Supplee will dedicate these birding areas during the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago Buffet Dinner, tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Yuma Art Center, 254 S. Main St., Yuma. The cost is \$35.

For more information about this and other activities of the Yuma Bird, Nature and History Festival, visit <https://yumahistorymuseum.org/yuma-bird-nature-history-festival>.



LOANED PHOTO/CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOOB

THE ENDANGERED BIRD Yuma Ridgway's rail is seen in this loaned photo. The bird can be found along the Colorado River in the Yuma area.

SAN LUIS

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half the votes cast for the seats they sought.

The fact that the city did not need to have a general election meant the mayor and council could put aside campaigning and proceed with projects already begun. Among them was the repaving of Plaza I, the city's oldest residential subdivision, and planning for paving and upgrades to water and sewer lines in the Los Portales subdivision. That latter project is scheduled to take place in 2019.

"(The primary election results) had a lot to do with the stability of (city) government," said Sanchez. "The wheels (of progress) began to turn again."

The mayor said City Hall has focused in recent years on upgrading streets that he contends had been neglected for decades. And, he added, recent upgrades made to the city's water and sewage systems, financed with incremental increases in utility rates, allow the city to avoid sanitation problems and possible lawsuits stemming from those problems, as well as to meet the demands posed by rapid population growth.

Sanchez said the expansion of the water and sewer systems enables San Luis to attract new businesses and industry, as well as serve population growth for the foreseeable future.

Among the new businesses expected to arrive over the next year is a hotel and a commercial complex, to be located on the northwest corner of Highway 95 and County 22nd Street. Work on the \$22 million project, said Sanchez, is due to begin in the first half of 2019, and is expected to create 100 temporary jobs during the construction phase and then 50 permanent jobs.

Sanchez said all indicators are that San Luis will continue seeing residential growth on the east side, where construction of three residential subdivisions has already begun or is planned. Meanwhile, new commercial development is expected on the west side, particularly along the Main Street corridor, where a Denny's restaurant has already opened and a new Chevron gasoline station and convenience store is also planned.



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PHOTO BY CESAR NEYOY/BAJO EL SOL

WORKERS BUILD NEW homes in the Santa Cecilia subdivision in San Luis, Ariz. 2018 saw a surge in new housing in the Arizona border city.

"We have taken a more aggressive attitude to promote the city, and it's paying off," Sanchez said. "Not only do we have a Chevron that will open in the first months of the year, but there is also the Piana plant, in the (former) Meadowcraft building, which will go into operation before March. That was a project that had been planned for Phoenix, and we succeeded in attracting it to San Luis instead, to create much needed jobs."

Piana Nonwovens, LLC, a textiles company, opened a fiber-producing plant during late 2018 in a 125,000-square-foot building on the north side of the city that previously housed a Meadowcraft plant that had manufactured outdoor patio furniture. Sanchez said the Piana plant has created 30 jobs, while the Chevron station will add another 15.

The mayor said the arrival of new business means not just jobs, but a greater offering of goods and services for residents who previously went out of the town to buy what they needed.

"Nothing is served by San Luis growing so much in population if we can't keep (residents in San Luis) and convince them to shop here, instead of looking for those services in Yuma or San Luis Rio Colorado."

New business investments notwithstanding, the mayor said City Hall may end the fiscal year in June with a drop in sales tax rev-

enue, owing to recurring long lines of motorists waiting to cross the border from Mexico.

Sanchez and other city officials say the lengthy wait times at the border scare off Mexican consumers who otherwise represent a large or the largest portion of customers of businesses in San Luis. Officials from the Arizona border city have been lobbying the federal government to expand the downtown port of entry to handle more vehicle lanes, and to convert San Luis II, an east side border crossing that now handles only commercial tractor-trailers, to serve private vehicles as well.

"What is happening at the port of entry is going to affect us, and what is happening with the economy and with politics at the federal level is aggravating it," he said, referring to the government shutdown prompted by President Donald Trump's demand for funding from Congress for a border wall.

"In the last three months, dialogue about improvements to the ports of entry has stopped, but the lines (of cars) have increased, and the traffic doesn't move. Waits of three to five hours to cross in hitting our businesses," Sanchez added. "There is no reason for these lines. We have worked so much to advocate improvements to the ports, trying to progress, but it seems like we regress."

Sanchez said the city is

preparing a letter to Trump in which it will spell out the city's concerns about the shutdown and lack of funding for port upgrades.

"Ultimately all the discussion has concentrated on the wall and on border security," he said. "We are going to be aggressive in reminding the federal government that ports of entry, tourism and business are also important."

Turning to another topic, Sanchez said the city's plans for 2019 include establishing, at least in temporary facilities, a police and fire department substation at a site near Avenue E to served the rapidly growing east side of San Luis.

Also planned in the new year is an expansion of the city-operated senior center, a project long sought to meet the growth in the number of clients.

San Luis, he added, will continue its collaboration with the cities of Yuma, Somerton, Wellton and San Luis Rio Colorado in 4FrontED, a bilateral effort to spur regional economic development.

"If we have been able to grow even with this situation of national uncertainty and with this economy, I believe that 2019 is going to be good for San Luis and the region," Sanchez said. "We have the infrastructure for new businesses, three (industrial) parks with land where industry can develop and huge growth in housing — perhaps not at the level of 10 years ago, but it is growing."

FUNERAL NOTICES

Joseph Rivera Cesina

Joseph Rivera Cesina, 51, of Somerton, died Dec. 26, 2018, at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

Born Dec. 19, 1967, in Yuma, he was a maintenance worker.

A viewing will be 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday at Funeraria del Angel Kammann, with funeral services 3 to 4 p.m. Cremation will be at East Cocopah Indian Reservation.

NATION & WORLD GLANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jailed American spent years collecting Russian contacts

WASHINGTON — A U.S. corporate security executive and former Marine who has been jailed in Moscow on spying charges has spent more than a decade cultivating friends and contacts in Russia, both virtual and real.

Paul Whelan sought out friends throughout the country, most often through a social networking site that is similar to Facebook and popular largely in Russia. Several told The Associated Press that the American never seemed sinister, merely someone who was interested in Russia and wanted to be pen pals.

"I know him as a friendly, polite, educated, and easy-going guy," said one of his contacts, who, like the other Russians interviewed for this story, spoke on condition of anonymity because of Whelan's legal troubles.

Whelan was arrested Dec. 28 while on a two-week visit to the country and has been charged with espionage. The Russian government has so far given no details about the allegations against him, but a close look at his social media history suggests why he might have come to the attention of the Russian security services, regardless of his motives.

He has collected dozens of contacts on the social media site, nearly all of them men, many of whom have at least some connection to the military.

Impeachment talk flares after Dems take power in House

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had only been in office for a few hours when a handful of Democrats defied her persistent calls not to begin the new Congress by talking about impeachment.

Just after Pelosi was sworn in Thursday, long-time Democratic Reps. Brad Sherman of California and Al Green of Texas introduced articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump. That evening, newly elected Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan riled up

a supportive crowd by calling the president a profanity and predicting that he will be removed from office.

Tension over impeachment is likely to be a persistent thorn for Pelosi, who will have to balance between a small, vocal group of the most liberal members of her caucus, who want to see Trump removed immediately, and the majority of her members who want to wait for special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation to finish. Pelosi purposely avoided — and encouraged most fellow Democrats to avoid — any talk of impeachment during the election, believing there could be backlash from voters.

While eager to paint impeachment as the Democrats' only agenda, Trump has also expressed some worry both publicly and privately at the prospect.

5 children heading to Disney killed in fiery Florida crash

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A church van packed with children was headed to Walt Disney World when it got caught in a fiery pileup involving two 18-wheelers. Seven people, including five of the youngsters, died in the crash.

On Friday, investigators tried to determine what triggered the accident, which happened outside Gainesville in clear weather on a straight, flat stretch of Interstate 75, a busy highway that connects Florida to the rest of the South.

Two vehicles traveling north — a tractor-trailer and a car — smashed into each other and then burst through a metal guardrail, slamming into another semitrailer and the southbound van carrying the children. Diesel fuel leaked, and the mass erupted into a fireball, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

A fifth car, unable to avoid the chaos, sped through and hit people who were thrown from the van, the highway patrol said. Five of the children from a Pentecostal church in Marksville, Louisiana, and the two truck drivers died. At least eight others were injured.

CROSSING

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Street in San Luis, Ariz., passing through the gate to First Street in the Mexican city. First Street then intersects with one of the main thoroughfares, Obregon Avenue.

Reina, whose term ended in September, did not seek re-election. But Gonzalez embraced the proposal as a way to relieve congestion in the downtown, particularly during the crop

harvest season. Pavlovich said last month that 400 million pesos in funding for infrastructure projects sought by the Sonora government, including port of entry improvements, had been cut from the federal budget.

But Gonzalez, who belongs to Lopez Obrador's MORENA political party that took power throughout Mexico in 2018, is committed to upgrades as part of his policy agenda to stimulate the economies of Mexican border cities.

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