

Publisher's Note



Proud to be us

These days, with negative headlines about the war in Iraq, the housing slump, dead K-9s and more, it's no wonder our collective psyches get chipped away, one chunk at a time. So it's wonderful when an event that is so American, and now so Chandler, helps swell the local pride.

Of course, I'm referring to our own "boys of summer," the Chandler National Little League All-Stars who made it once again to the Little League World Series, and to the top four teams in the world. When you hear the buzz in the restaurants, when you can boast "How 'bout those Little Leaguers?" and friends from outside the area ask "Is that your team?" it makes our chests swell just that much more.

I remember the pride I felt four years ago attending the huge parade for the last team to make it to the World Series. Players dressed in their uniforms, some walking proudly with banners, the All-Stars riding high atop Chandler fire trucks, the governor and mayor beaming with joy. I still get a lump in my throat just recalling those images. It was one of those rare experiences to come together as a community to celebrate such a triumph. Yes, it was beastly hot, but people stayed for the entire ceremony, and we didn't want it to end.

For those of you who may not know, this is the third team to make it to the Little League World Series. In 1965, the very first Little League team from Arizona made it there. Fox Crossing resident Dan Melendez and his older brother, Larry, were on the South Mountain East Little League team that won the state pennant that year, and Larry got the nod to be on the All-Star team that traveled to Williamsport, PA. Dan Melendez, representing his brother who died in an auto accident in 1968, rode in the CNLL parade at Snedigar in 2003. The 1965 team members signed baseballs and gave them to the 2003 team.

Depending when you're reading this, we hope you were able to be part of the festivities at the 2007 parade for the CNLL All-Stars at Snedigar Sept 1. Yes, it will be beastly hot again, but I can practically guarantee you will leave with a lump in your throat and a feeling of such pride that will help get you through whatever other bumps and roadblocks you may have in your life.

Thanks for all your support.

Laurie Fagen, Editor/Publisher
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Have a story idea or news tip? Know of an interesting photo opportunity? How about positive feedback or constructive comments? We'd like to hear from you. Email us at News@SanTanSun.com.

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Community Commentary

Cleaning up our air

Commentary by Councilmember Matt Orlando

For three weeks last year, you were breathing air that fell outside of what the federal government deems healthy. That's 21 days too many. During those periods, scattered throughout 2006, our Valley's air quality fell below the safety standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) PM-10 emissions.

PM-10 is a name used for tiny particles in the air that measure less than 10 micrometers in diameter and can't be filtered by the human body's nose or throat. That means these particles of dirt, dust, automobile emissions, etc. end up in our lungs. In response, the EPA is requiring the region to reduce PM-10 levels by 5 percent every year until the region can demonstrate three years of compliance. If we fail, so too, may our health.

This is an issue that obviously is a concern to me, and one that must be addressed from both a local and regional approach. In response, the Chandler City Council adopted a plan based on a number of recommendations of the Maricopa Association of Governments or MAG as it is commonly referred to. This regional agency serves the metropolitan Phoenix area, by providing a regional forum for the discussion and resolution of issues like air quality.

In June, the City Council unanimously approved a number of measures that should help curb the amount of PM-10 in our community. These 13 measures include more public education on the dangers of PM-10 and what residents can do to help out. This means you will see more information on our Web site, in your utility bills and on Cable Channel 11. We want to ensure that you know the very serious impacts of PM-10 and are educated as to how you can make a real difference.

In addition, we will continue to purchase street sweepers that are PM-10 certified. Chandler has been adding these sweepers to its fleet for many years. At the same time, we increased sweeping in areas where the dust levels are the highest.

Chandler will begin an aggressive campaign to apply asphalt millings or pavement to dirt roads, road shoulders, alleys and unpaved parking lots that it controls. While most alleys and streets in Chandler are already paved, there still exists about 50 miles of unpaved shoulder, 30 miles of alleys and close to a mile of unpaved roadway. We have committed to pave these areas by 2010.

This work does not come cheap. While much of the costs were already scheduled in our Capital Improvement Program, an additional \$5.2 million was appropriated to complete the plan. In all, \$75 million will be spent on these efforts. However, the City Council feels strongly about this effort and the positive impacts it can have on the health of our residents.

Of course, these harmful emissions do not stop at municipal borders. This is a regional issue. While MAG did a good job of providing a blueprint for cleaning our air, we can always do more. We need to continue to have meaningful discussions on how to better coordinate efforts among cities in the Phoenix metropolitan region. That means working with our state legislators, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, MAG, as well as industry to create solutions to this mounting concern.

While we are ambitious, we cannot rest on our local efforts. It's time to pull together and get a healthy start on a plan to seriously reduce the unhealthy effects of PM-10 in the Valley.

Letters to the Editor

"Sanctuary city" title no honor

I just read that Chandler was given the dubious honor of being declared a sanctuary city for illegal aliens in May 2007. Phoenix also has the pleasure of this distinction. Only two cities in the entire state of Arizona?

Write your mayor and council members and let them know your dissatisfaction. These cities risk losing law enforcement federal grants by disobeying federal laws, which is what Phoenix and Chandler are apparently doing.

This "don't ask, don't tell" policy is hurting America in its fight against terrorism as well as allowing illegal aliens to take advantage of our schools, hospitals and burden our prison system, and the list goes on and on. It's no wonder that the citizens of Arizona put propositions on the ballot regarding illegal immigration. 75 percent of Arizona citizens want this to stop, and we are unhappy with this "politically correct" stance that these two cities are apparently taking. The only public official that seems to want to enforce our laws is the Sheriff of Maricopa County.

United States citizens, start writing letters, telephoning and faxing your local elected officials. We, the American citizens, speak loudly, including at

the polls. Our elected officials should be representing us. Be afraid, American citizens, be very afraid!

Judy Pelino, Chandler

Chandler physicians give more than medical care

I am writing in regard to recent local newspaper accounts of the new Sprinkler's Clubhouse. I have seen the press release about this in the *SanTan Sun News*.

Having five kids less than 6 years old, I have watched the video on Channel 11 and have enjoyed this public service video. I am also the finance chairman and an emergency physician with Premier Emergency Medical Specialists.

We are a group of administrative staff, physician assistants, and emergency physicians who provide care at Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center emergency departments. We are a separate corporate entity from either of the hospitals.

Our group did donate \$2,000 to the City of Chandler for the creation of a new Sprinkler's Clubhouse set.

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Letters to the Editor

Our group has been committed to charity work and donations over our 4.5 years of existence. We have contributed \$250,000 to the CHW East Valley Foundation for the creation of a \$500,000 endowment to benefit the Chandler Regional Hospital ER.

We have participated in many hospital fundraising events including the annual gala and George Rosza Golf Tournament and have contributed to the Chandler National Little League.

One other significant commitment I would like to mention is the Chandler Regional Medical Center Health on Wheels.

Our group has physician and PA volunteers committed to staffing this venture. This is a mobile medical unit that goes out into the Chandler community to provide free onsite medical screening and care.

I am very proud of the level of commitment my group has put forth to the Chandler community. In a world when we always hear the negatives, I just wanted to shine some light on a few aspects of a small business that is committed to giving back to the Chandler community. I am proud to be a member of Premier Emergency Medical Specialists. I thank you for your time.

Brian Paterick, MD, Premier Emergency Medical Specialists, Chandler

Bandit's death, aftermath a travesty

Chandler Police Sergeant Rick Griner and Fire Battalion Chief Dan Couch have both stated that Bandit's death was "blown out of proportion" and that the comments about this have been "extreme and insensitive to the office and his family." Their comments reek of criticism of the public and an arrogance that is completely unacceptable in public employees/servants. I am unsure as to why the Chandler Fire Department was commenting on a police department issue.

Allow us, the public you don't respect, to make something crystal clear to you two and to any other city employees who might need reminding: You are paid for by public funds and that means that you both work for the public. You are accountable to us. The police department and the fire department are not your private fiefdoms that you run as you see fit. This criminal act was carried out by a public employee during the commission of his work; therefore, the public is entirely within its rights to comment and call for termination and prosecution of Officer Lovejoy.

Secondly, you have both forgotten that quite a bit of the public feels vulnerable to the police, who carry pistols, shotguns, Tasers, and night sticks and have injured/maimed/killed with those tools. We rely upon the police to use good judgment with those tools and when the public hears that a totally vulnerable and defenseless living being is killed through

the criminal act of a public servant, they tend to ask for accountability.

The fact that we now have to listen to Officer Lovejoy's wife claim on KTAR radio that it was their daughter's responsibility to care for Bandit and therefore the death of Bandit was their daughter's negligence is beyond belief. Chandler Police Chief Sherry Kiyler must take note that apparently Tim Lovejoy's employment includes his daughter carrying out his job duties and his wife holding her own press conferences to further inflame the public and lay blame away from her husband.

I suggest that Officer Lovejoy, Sgt. Rick Griner, and Fire Battalion Chief Dan Couch apply for employment with Covance; I hear they will be hiring soon and they are looking for staff with no respect for their communities and no scruples regarding animal abuse and cruelty.

Christina Goff, Fox Crossing

Payne suspension handled correctly

What is disturbing is that the Mostellers are more intent on complaining about the meager three-day suspension than they are on the more pressing issue: That their child may potentially be suffering from severe antisocial emotional issues. Why not put at least as much effort looking into that, mom and dad?

As a parent of two children in the Chandler Unified School District, let me commend Principal Karen Martin

and her staff for this highly unpopular, but necessary, disciplinary suspension. I don't know Principal Martin, but am relieved that someone is willing to take the heat to make the right call. Can you imagine what that campus would be like in the weeks to follow once the student body knew there would be no retribution for threatening their teacher? Is only the school staff thinking this one all the way through?

Obviously those ready to quickly criticize the actions of a respected professional simply condone students devising implied threats toward their educators, instead of doing their assignments. No doubt these same critics would be the loudest to condemn these dedicated folks for the lack of discipline provided if indeed some tragic event occurred on campus.

Marty Herder, Chandler

Official judgment ridiculous

Give me a break, why does the *SanTan Sun* continue to publish letters from complete know-nothings? Andrew Quirk says B. Dunn and the rest will burn for letting Covance into our city.

Did God tell you that? Spoke to you personally, huh?

Wow, I'm impressed! Can I come to your church?

2,000 years after Christ and people still think they know the mind of God and you publish it. Unbelievable!

Michael Morse, Chandler

coming early
September



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