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SPOTLIGHT FEATURED

## The Week In Review May 6 - May 12 - 2018

Tribune Staff May 6, 2018



### **East Mesa school remembers little girl who died tragically last year**

While most schools were celebrating the end of the teachers' walkout on May 3, parents and children at Las Sendas Elementary were marking the 4th birthday of Holly Heap, who was accidentally run over by her father, former NFL player Todd Heap, in their Mesa driveway in April 2017.

The #hugsfromhollyday movement encouraged parents to celebrate the youngster, who "was known to give the best hugs and her love for everyone and everything in life was contagious," the invitation read. Parents decked out the school in pink balloons and yellow bows.

The invitation encouraged parents to donate a book in her honor, share treats or chicken nuggets, set up a free lemonade stand, leave a bigger-than-normal tip, pay for the person behind them in the drive-through or perform other acts of kindness that would "scatter sunshine in Holly's honor on her birthday."

### **Retired tugboat skipper in Mesa marks 103 years**

A California tugboat skipper who wound up loving the desert almost as much as he loves the sea celebrated his 103rd birthday at his favorite McDonald's in east Mesa.

Albert R. Vargas, who gathered with his friends at the restaurant at Greenfield and Southern on May 3, started coming to Arizona with friends for square dance competitions and came to enjoy exploring its beauty on his motorcycle once he moved here.

Vargas recalls that he and his Honda Twinstar bike sped down practically "every dirt road in Arizona" on their rides, which he enjoyed well into his 80s. Born in Alameda, Calif., Vargas' love affair with the ocean started while sailing with his dad, who made a living hauling goods on the family boat.

An early highlight of Vargas' seafaring life was when, at 18 years old, he and four friends sailed 2,225 nautical miles from Los Angeles to Honolulu in the 1934 Transpacific Yacht Race.

Retired for more than three decades, Vargas helmed a tugboat for 15 years. During his stint, he developed a knack for navigating through the Pacific Islands and recalls the tumultuous currents near San Francisco.

Vargas performed in square-dance competitions for 50 years and still is very active. Indeed, the sailor's life may not be over for Vargas. Not that long ago, he went on a cruise to the South Pacific.

### **MCC dedicates art library in retired professor's name**

Mesa Community College has dedicated the Dr. Carole Drachler Library of Art History in the art gallery on MCC's Southern and Dobson campus.

The retired MCC art history professor and her husband, Dr. David Drachler, donated \$250,000 to launch the library for students, instructors and the community.

The Drachlers' gift includes more than 3,000 art and art-history books collected during years of extensive world travel. The donation includes a rare collection of historic items from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

"Art history connects you to the history of the world through pictures and buildings, instead of words in a textbook," Drachler said. "Art elevates us. It makes us feel like we're immortal. It opens up the world."

Drachler taught art history at MCC for nearly 40 years, retiring in 2009 after 34 years. Her classes were some of the most popular on campus.

"Books have been my passion, after family and teaching," she said. "I'm happy that generations of students will use the books I enjoyed."