

ARIZONA Daily Sun

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WEEKEND TO-DOs

Welcome to Flagstaff! This weekend's hot spots are:

FINE CRAFT SALE & ARTIST MARKETPLACE

Today and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Features 18 unique local artists in a marketplace setting. Plus, we'll have festival holiday carols sung by a local chorale group, hot apple cider and cookies. Coconino Center for the Arts, 2300 N. Fort Valley Road. 779-2300.

NAU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Today, 5 p.m. NAU men's basketball takes on the University of Hawaii in a non-conference match-up. Halftime act is Quick Change. \$12-\$8. NAU Walkup Skydome, 1705 S. San Francisco St. 523-5661.

WARREN MILLER'S "TICKET TO RIDE"

Today, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Warren Miller's action-packed journey with the world's best skiers and snowboarders riding the world's highest peaks. Proceeds benefit the Flagstaff Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team, a nonprofit youth sports organization. \$10; \$5 age 12 and younger. The Orpheum Theater, 15 W. Aspen Ave. 773-9707.

"THE NUTCRACKER BALLET"

Today, 2 p.m. Lollipop Concert; 7:30 p.m. regular show. Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and NAU Community Music and Dance Academy Ballet Troupe. \$15.75 - \$65.75. For the matinee Lollipop concert, children are free and adults \$7. Ardrey Memorial Auditorium, NAU campus.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

Today, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. "It's a Wonderful Life" is a perennial favorite for its timeless themes of gratitude, friendship and benevolence. \$11-\$17. theatrikos.com. The Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse, 11 W. Cherry Ave. 774-1662.

Check out the Community Almanac on Page A8 for more events

Slush fund charges grow

Four more Navajo lawmakers are charged, including the leader of the legislative branch.

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

The leader of the Navajo Nation's legislative branch, his predecessor and two former lawmakers have been charged with misusing tribal discretionary funds intended for Navajos in need.

Prosecutors filed bribery and conspiracy charges this week against former Tribal Council Speaker Lawrence Morgan, his successor, Johnny Naize, and former council Delegates Lena Manheimer and George Arthur. Criminal complaints in Window Rock District Court allege the families of the four benefited by nearly \$93,000 in a scheme in which the defendants approved financial payments for families of their colleagues.

Peterson Wilson, a legal advocate for Manheimer in a related civil case, said Friday that the criminal allegations are far-fetched. He said delegates agreed not to give money directly to their immediate or extended families, but nothing

in the discretionary fund program prohibited those family members from seeking assistance from other lawmakers.

"My client just reads over the applications, then they forward it on to the processing point," he said. "From there, a system of checks and balances should take place. But I guess it never did."

Morgan's attorney in the civil case declined to comment. Arthur did not immediately return a message seeking comment Friday.

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CLAUS CABOOSE



ABOVE: Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with Flagstaff Mayor Jerry Nabours, arrive in Flagstaff aboard a BNSF caboose before making their way to Heritage Square Friday evening.

RIGHT: Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with Nabours, arrive at Heritage Square in Downtown Flagstaff with the help of a Flagstaff Fire Department ladder truck.

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR MAHONEY
Arizona Daily Sun

Song, dance, tears for Mandela

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA AND JASON STRAZIUSO
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Themba Radebe spun slowly in a circle.

First he pointed his cellphone camera at a group of children chanting Nelson Mandela's name as they waved posters of the anti-apartheid champion. Then pivoting to his right, Radebe aimed his camera at a swaying group of adults who sang in

Zulu while rocking and clapping.

A day after Mandela's death at 95, South Africans of all colors erupted in song, dance and tears Friday in emotional celebrations of the life of the man who bridged this country's black-white divide and helped avert a race war.

"I don't think Mr. Mandela belonged to black people," said Alex Freilingsdorf, a Toyota executive at a Soweto dealership. "He

belonged to South Africa."

Freilingsdorf and other white South Africans mingled among the hundreds of blacks gathered outside a home where Mandela lived as a young lawyer in the rough and tumble Soweto township.

The mood was simultaneously celebratory and somber at the impromptu street festival where Radebe filmed scenes to share with his family.

"I'm sorry, I'm too emotional. The tears flow too easily," said the balding 60-year-old, his eyes sparkling with tears as he reflected on how South Africa's race relations have improved — "not perfect, but much better" — compared with his childhood in the black township.

"This is a celebration of the death, because we knew he was an old man," Radebe said. "He brought a lot of changes to our community, because I grew up in apartheid. It was a very bad situation."

At a service in Cape Town, Arch-



A PASTOR OF NELSON MANDELA in which mourners have written their messages of condolence and support, in the street outside his old house in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, Friday. (Ben Curtis/AP)

bishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel laureate like Mandela and himself a monumental figure in the struggle against apartheid, called on South Africa's 51 million people to embrace the values of unity and democracy that Mandela embodied.

"God, thank you for the gift of Madiba," Tutu said, using Mandela's clan name.

See MANDELA, A6

Test results a challenge to FUSD

Global scores reinforce the drive by Flagstaff schools this year to train staff to teach critical thinking and analysis.

By MICHELLE McMANIMON
Sun Staff Reporter

As American teenagers continue to fall behind in math, reading and science, Flagstaff Unified School District is working to bring a higher standard of learning into the classroom.

Results of the 2012 Program for International Student Assessment test released Tuesday showed 15-year-olds in the United States had an average proficiency level in reading and science but a below-average proficiency level in mathematics compared with 64 other countries.

"America is slipping," said Pearl Chang Esau, president and CEO of the nonpartisan education advocacy group Expect More Arizona. "It is falling behind. In a globally competitive marketplace, that's a red flag."

The PISA test is a global study conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The 2012 test evaluated how 510,000 15-year-olds from all over the world are able to apply math, reading and science concepts. U.S. students' scores remained around the same as in previous years. However, the U.S. dropped in the rankings as other countries — particularly in Asia — showed higher scores than in past years.

See FUSD, A6

Job market shows stronger economy ahead

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The job market is showing signs of the consistent gains the nation has awaited in the 4 1/2 years since the Great Recession.

Employers added 203,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate fell to 7 percent, a five-year low, the Labor Department reported Friday. Four straight months of robust hiring have raised hopes that 2014 will be the year the economy returns to normal.

The steady job growth could also hasten a move by the Federal Reserve to reduce its stimulus efforts.

Stock investors were heartened by the report. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 198 points.

A steadily improving job market could give consumers and business executives the confidence to keep spending and investing, even if a pullback by the Fed leads to higher interest rates. The Fed has been buying bonds each month to try to keep long-term borrowing rates low to spur spending and growth.

The celebration on Wall Street suggested that investors think a healthier job market, if it fuels more spending, would outweigh higher borrowing rates caused by a Fed pullback.

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High: 29 Low: 14
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