

ARIZONA

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Inside: This month's edition of Athlon Sports magazine



WEEKEND TO-DOs

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

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO FLAGSTAFF

Today, 5 p.m. Santa will arrive on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.



CANDY CANE CONCERT

Today, 1 p.m. Orchestra Northern Arizona will celebrate the season.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Today, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$15-\$21.



ANNUAL LUMINARIA CELEBRATION

Sunday, 5:30-9 p.m. Glowing candles line the streets and a living nativity scene.



CHRISTMAS IN THE MOUNTAINS!

Sunday, 3 p.m. Features Master Chorale of Flagstaff, the Children's Chorale of Flagstaff.

School death toll at 28

Police have no motive for the shooting attack by a 20-year-old man on a Connecticut grade school.

By JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — A man killed his mother at home and then opened fire Friday inside the elementary school where she taught.

“Our hearts are broken today.” PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

The rampage, coming less than two weeks before Christmas, was the nation's second-deadliest school shooting.

INSIDE • A6

- Suspect was son of teacher
- Shooting revives gun debate
- State schools chief: Plan ahead
- Phoenix, Tucson up school security

on two classrooms. The gunman, identified as Adam Lanza, was believed to suffer from a personality disorder.

See SHOOTING, A6

FACES OF THE FUTURE



THREE GENERATIONS OF THE CODY FAMILY wave their support for Bridgette Cody, who graduated from Northern Arizona University Friday morning with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Adaptable and optimistic

Many of NAU's mid-year graduates have taken nontraditional paths to their degrees.

By CECILE LeBLANC Sun Staff Reporter

At Northern Arizona University's Friday morning commencement ceremony, Sariah Faith carried the banner for the W.A. Franke College of Business.

someone with perseverance and a refreshing gratitude for all those who have helped her along the way. "It's taken me a really long time to get here," Faith said.

“It's taken me a really long time to get here. A lot of difficult challenges I had to go through. It's a big deal for me to walk across that stage today.”

SARIAH FAITH New graduate from the W.A. Franke College of Business

Among her challenges is raising her 2-year-old son as a single mom. She also works in information technology for the USGS.

See GRADUATION, A5

United Way chief retiring

Kerry Blume will step down in June after 15 years.

By JOE FERGUSON Sun Staff Reporter

The head of the United Way of Northern Arizona announced she will retire in June, after working for the nonprofit for 15 years.

service providers and community leadership." Blume said she decided last summer she wanted to retire and feels confident she is leaving the organization with a well-trained staff and dedicated board of directors.

The United Way is also on strong financial footing compared with 15 years ago.

The organization has diversified its funding since Blume joined the United Way, increasing the annual fundraising campaign from \$800,000 to almost \$2 million.

Kerry Blume made the announcement to the United Way board earlier this week. She will continue to do private consulting.

"I am proud of the work that we've done in the past 15 years," Blume said. "I am grateful for the many opportunities to work with volunteers,



KERRY BLUME, president & CEO of United Way of Northern Arizona, smiles in this Sept. 18 file photo as she listens to Steve Peru introduce her during the annual kick-off luncheon in Flagstaff.

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High: 34 Low: 17 4-day forecast - A8

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