

## News from Arizona

American Legion commander Brett Reistad visited Green Valley Legion Post 66 on 23 January 2019. Among the Commander's projects are providing help to our Coast Guard members who hadn't been paid for over a month due to the Government shutdown. A second project announced nation-wide is to encourage local post leaders to start a Buddy Check program. Under this program, local posts are calling Legion members and former members simply to see how they are doing. Reistad said "Ask if there is anything The American Legion can do for them, Perhaps they have been sick, lost a spouse or just need to know someone cares. Perhaps they simply forgot to renew their membership because no one called. This is not a membership campaign but a comradeship campaign."

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the shutdown cost \$11 billion, \$3 billion in December and \$8 billion in January. CBO also estimated that \$3 billion will be lost forever to the US economy. "Among those who experienced the largest and most direct negative effects are federal workers who faced delayed compensation and private-sector entities that lost business," the report said. "Some of those private-sector entities will never recoup that lost income."

The following story probably didn't make the news up north. Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP) agents arrested 110 migrants from Central America near Yuma last week. Local TV station KGUN in Tucson showed video of the people as they climbed over a border wall using a ladder. Earlier in January, CBP found 376 migrants who said they dug under a border wall. Of the group 179 were children.

The latest news from our Green Valley News newspaper might be of interest. In a neighboring town of Sahuarita, a person was killed and another injured in a shooting incident. The person killed was a recently released sex offender. No motive for the shooting has been released, In Madera Canyon a rare White-throated Thrush was sighted and people have been flocking to the area for a view including two who flew from Sacramento. Since there are many older people living here, we see several reports of computer scams. The big debate in Green Valley is over a proposal to build a \$1.25 million pickleball center. Pickleball which is very popular is a game with elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. The forecast for today is "Some sun this morning with increasing clouds this afternoon. High around 75F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph."

On a personal note, in December I was elected 2019 president of the Green Valley Forum Club. Our club has a guest presenter every Wednesday morning at 9:00am. This week we have a presentation on Tales of a Private Investigator and next week, David Fitzsimmons of the Arizona Daily Star will present on Political Satire and Cartooning.

Stay warm and we will see you in May.