

The Sovas lost more than 100 pounds each. And gained a whole new life together.





azdailysun.com

Digital Subscriptions

Contact Us More

Join the conversation

Register Log In

Serving Flagstaff and northern Arizona

Opinion



20° Clear Weekly Forecast

sponsored by

Advanced Search | Privacy | About Our Ads

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

News

Lifestyles

Calendar

Homes

Jobs

Classifieds

Gay civil rights has majority CCC ready to close Williams campus New eyes in the skies

The Worgess files

Home / News / Opinion / Editorial

Sports

Keeping notices in newspapers about transparency

Obituaries

Print Recommend | 0 Email

(0) Comments

It's impossible for the Arizona Daily Sun to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest when commenting on the proposed switch of legal notices from newspapers to government websites.

So we will acknowledge that conflict up front -- yes, the Daily Sun is paid to publish legal notices. The revenue is not inconsequential, but it means a lot more to small weeklies, which have much less diversified advertising bases but have become essential parts of their communities.

But we feel the issue is about a lot more than money, and being in the First Amendment business, we hope readers will give our reasons due consideration.

The first is accessibility. You can't have a democracy without easy access to information about your government, and the press traditionally has made that one of its key functions. A printed legal notice, whether it's about a council meeting or a contract award, is a highly visible and easy digestible way to help citizens learn what their government is up to. Yes, the print is sometimes almost too small to read, but that is a boon to taxpayers, who ultimately are paying by the columninch.

A second reason is transparency. Government officials, being human, don't go out of their way to announce things like tax increases that they know will get citizens upset. The worldwide web, with its limitless capacity, can be an easy place to hide such information -- or at least make it harder to find. A printed notice at budget time or tax time, on the other hand, doesn't require any fancy Internet search skills and it's a useful tool to help citizens stay engaged with their government.

Finally, it's about equity -- treating all citizens as equally as possible. At this point, Internet access is not universal, but postal service is. A copy of a newspaper, if it isn't delivered or purchased at a store, can still be mailed most anywhere for the cost of second-class postage. It's also a permanent record that can't be altered or deleted online.

Wouldn't allowing government agencies to post public notices on their websites be cheaper? Perhaps, but there are certain costs that a self-governing society decides to accrue in the interest of access, transparency and equity. Keeping legal notices available in print may seem like small potatoes when the headlines are about secret drone strikes and backroom deals in Congress. But if all politics ultimately is local, then so, too, is the way that citizens in a community hold their



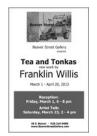
For a free consultation please call

928-226-0792

1800 S. Milton Rd. Suite 103, Flagstaff, AZ

Flyerboard











Local advertising by PaperG **Get-It! Featured Businesses**



Physical Therapy by Larson Rehab



Northern Arizona Radiology

LeeLocal com

LeeLocal - Flagstaff

elected officials accountable to the basic flow of public information.

Published legal notices are part of that process, and we think it's important enough not to change it, no matter how much more cheaply those officials say they can do it themselves.

View (0) Comments

More Editorial Stories

Recommendations

Page fiscal problems resonate in Flagstaff

City's 4-inch plowrule leaves residents in deep freeze

Power of compromise honors shared middle ground

Homeless students and their families need transitional housing

Sponsored Links

Soldier from Kayenta is killed in Afghanistan

Bizarre crash kills mother and daughter in Flagstaff

The real estate comeback. It's the real deal. See

Tuba City woman, 77, arrested for panhandling in Southside (Flagstaff and northern Arizona News, Classified,

Gold Canyon Arizona Homes

Lori Blank & Associates, LLC Everything Real Estate! www.loriblank.com

The 5 Best Colleges
Get Your College Degree Started. See The Top 5 Colleges. Learn More. checkoutacollege.com

Antique Trucks For Sale

Copyright 2013 Arizona Daily Sun. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Vintage and Classic Trucks Restoration ready www.randys-relics.com

Ads by Yahoo!

WESTSIDE Westside Veterinary VETERINARY CLINIC Clinic

Find a local business

I'm looking for: Located near:

Flagstaff,AZ

Hint: Enter a keyword that you are looking for like tires, pizza or doctors or browse the full business directory, powered by Local.com

Search

Most Popular

Articles Comments Facebook

- · Road collapse closes Highway 89 south of Page
- · Gold, silver coins acceptable forms of payment?
- Big collapse at Big Cut
- Bad day on Butler: Semi falls off I-40
- · Last days for local turbines?
- Road-rage driver clips SUV
- 3 p.m. update: Butler Avenue blocked from semi crash
- · Pair charged with sex in Bushmaster

Top Ads

Cars

Jobs

Top Autos



2012 Volkswagen Tiguan



\$30,210

2012 Volkswagen Golf



\$32,830

2012 Volkswagen Routan

Arrest Records: 2 Secrets

1) Type Name and State 2) Unlimited Secrets
About Anyone. Takes Seconds
www.InstantCheckmate.com

NFL Logo Golf Gifts
NFL Golf Merchandise - Clocks, Towels, Flags, Headcovers and more. www.nflgolfstore.com

Karen's Hallmark Shops
Phoenix Area Greeting Cards, Gifts and US Postal
Services
www.karenshallmarkshops.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Check Out More

About Us Contact Us Flag Live! Mountain Living **Career Opportunities**

© Copyright 2013, Arizona Daily Sun, 1751 S. Thompson Flagstaff, AZ | Terms of Service and Privacy Policy | Find Area Businesses