

Now that the Cubs are done, maybe they'll help our Mesa food drive



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(Photo: Photo: N. Scott Trimble/The Republic)

Sorry, Cubs fans, better luck next year. I was actually kind of pulling for them. Well as much as I can pull for any team that's not the D-Backs or the Giants. Still, it would have been kind of neat to see them hang a pennant at Sloan Park in Mesa next spring.

Plus there's that whole "Back To The Future" connection, where the movie shows a front page of USA Today with a headline saying the Cubs won the World Series. Oh well, at least one prediction in the movie came true: People are still reading newspapers.

Thanks Tonto forest folks

So nice of the Tonto National Forest folks to remove the swim at your own risk warning at Butcher Jones Beach now that it's getting too cold to swim. Apparently there had been a fairly significant e-coli problem that has since been cleared up. Probably by moving downstream. Toward Mesa.



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<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/10/16/chicago-cubs-playoffs-mesa-ground-zero/74054276/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

Digging out my lede

So at the risk of my old journalism professor rolling in his, well, urn, I'm seriously burying the lede here. This Give A Journalist The Bird turkey drive thing is really starting to take off. Last week I mentioned a couple of takers who've stepped up to help United Food Bank. I actually heard from several others, but thanks to our super early deadlines, I didn't get to mention them.

The news is so exciting that it's hard to know where to start, so we'll line them up alphabetically by height. First up, the fine folks at A.T. Still University have stepped in to accept the challenge, as has Benedictine University and Mesa Community College. All of course join Wilkes University, which I mentioned last week.



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[D'Anna: Guess who's stepped up to accept the turkey challenge](#)

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Next up is the Mesa Chamber of Commerce and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, who have both agreed to a friendly challenge. Tempe will even be holding a raffle with prizes for turkey donors at their Business Before Hours mixer on Nov. 17. Way to go folks! Now it's up to Chandler, Gilbert and Apache Junction. Ball's in your court, guys.

I've also heard from the super-cool Missi Hughes of Desert Wind Harley Davidson, formerly known as Chester's, who said they'll be hosting Turkey Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. where they'll accept donations of frozen turkeys to benefit United Food bank.

Now this brings up an interesting image of people trying to ride their motorcycles through the streets of Mesa with frozen turkeys on their laps. Now I'm not expert, but it seems to me that would not be a great idea, so it seems like a good time to mention that the United Food Bank also welcomes checks. In past years we've counted one \$25 check as the equivalent of one frozen turkey.

By the way, Desert Wind is also going to have food donation drop-off boxes to collect non-perishable food throughout the month of November.

Which brings me to another point. We started this as a turkey drive, but if you're worried about the logistics, you can collect donations made out to United Food Bank, or ask them for a food donation box to put in your lobby. I'd still like to hear from more schools, service clubs, sewing circles and church groups.

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[\(http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/10/09/mesa-tempe-chandler-gilbert-thanksgiving-turkey-drive/73539428/\)](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/2015/10/09/mesa-tempe-chandler-gilbert-thanksgiving-turkey-drive/73539428/)

I wonder if my friends in the choir at Tempe First United Methodist might challenge the folks at Mesa First? Hmmm?

To get started, just contact the fine folks at United Food Bank at unitedfoodbank.org or call them at 480-926-4897. Seriously, they could use your help. They serve 51,000 meals a day to people in our community who are in need. One of those people could be someone you know.

And stay tuned next week — I might have some exciting news with a military bearing!

John D'Anna's occasional column is really the product of 10,000 monkeys playing with 10,000 typewriters, and unfortunately this is as close as they'll ever get to Shakespeare. To contact John, throw him a banana or just e-mail john.danna@arizonarepublic.com. Be sure to follow John on Twitter @azgreenday. He's trying to get to 10,000 followers and only has 8,000 to go.

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