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SEXTS, THREATS AND 'AMERICA'S SHERIFF'



Jillian Stannard, left, and Stephanie Wright talk at Wright's home in San Tan Valley on May 29. Stannard and Wright reported Mark Lamb to LDS Church leaders in 2018. PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/THE REPUBLIC

2nd woman urged Lamb investigation

LDS Church review sought of House GOP candidate

Robert Anglen and Laura Gersony | Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Stephanie Wright said she saw graphic messages and sexual photos from former Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb. They made her want to "puke," she said.

They still make her nauseous eight years later.

The mother of seven knew Lamb as her friend and neighbor. He was her daughter's Sunday school teacher, an authority figure in the close-knit San Tan Valley ward of the LDS Church. His wife, Janel, had once thrown a baby shower for her.

Wright said she felt betrayed looking at the nude pictures, including ones of Janel, and reading messages Lamb sent in a group chat encouraging her best friend's husband to sleep around.

"When I first saw the screenshots that Jillian was sharing, I felt like I wanted to run to the bathroom and throw up," she said. "Like it was such a icky feeling."

Jillian Stannard was her friend. They had met at a women's group and shared faith in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. But in 2018, Stannard appeared to be suffering, agonizing over something intensely private.

The story seeped out slowly, but turned into a torrent of information as Stannard opened up. She showed Wright the images and sex chats from her husband's computer. Wright said she didn't really want to see Lamb and others she trusted in such a way.

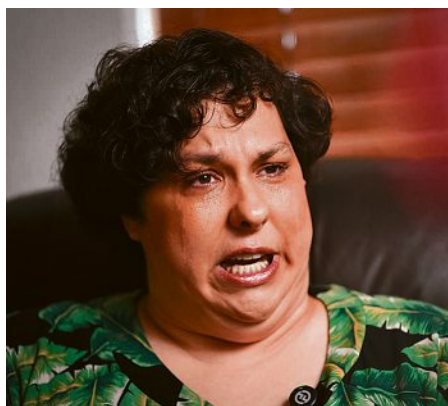
"I didn't want to know yuck about a man that's been so close in this Mormon world of mine, right?" she said. "But I did because I'm, like, well, I need to have proof. I need to see that there's more than just something that she's saying."

An ongoing investigation by The Arizona Republic found the sheriff invited intimate encounters and indulged a yearslong habit of sexting that he later denied or sought to conceal, sometimes with threats or intimidation. Stannard was one of two women who accused Lamb of trying to quiet them to hide his sexual improprieties.

Lamb is running as a Republican for a southeast Valley congressional seat on a platform of "faith, family and freedom" with President Donald Trump's endorsement.

Lawyers for Lamb's campaign said in April that many of the claims against him are "baseless and harmful" but offered no specifics. Lamb and his campaign have declined subsequent interview requests.

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Wright, who reported congressional candidate Mark Lamb to LDS Church leaders in 2018, speaks at her home in San Tan Valley on May 29. Wright says she's coming forward to support her friend's claims that Lamb's sexual improprieties ruined her friend's marriage.

"When I first saw the screenshots that Jillian was sharing, I felt like I wanted to run to the bathroom and throw up."

Stephanie Wright

SCRAPS MARKET GETS CREATIVE 1C



Scraps Market allows marketgoers to make crafts and interact with vendors to create custom goods. JOE RONDONE/THE REPUBLIC

Intersection crashes surge

Morgan Julian, 31, was killed May 30 in a collision at the intersection of State Route 24 and Signal Butte Road in southeast Mesa. His was the latest fatality at the intersection as scrutiny over the area's safety grows after a string of crashes within a week. 3A

Details propel DBacks

When the tiniest details and smallest plays are achieved without a hitch, it can start a chain reaction, says Bob McManaman of the DBacks' win. 1B

Judge won't open secret court records on car bomb

Ruling says requests on reporter's 1976 death short of legal standard

Richard Ruelas
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A judge has rejected a request from The Arizona Republic and the Arizona Attorney General's Office to unseal records related to the 1976 car bombing of Republic reporter Don Bolles.

The Maricopa County Superior Court judge's June 1 ruling, issued one day before the 50th anniversary of the bombing, said the documents should remain hidden from public view.

More inside

Why Don Bolles' life, death still inspire journalists today. 3A

The Republic and the Attorney General's Office filed the request saying the transcripts would shed more light on the targeted killing of a reporter.

Despite criminal trials that convicted three men for the crime, the joint motion said, "many people in Arizona and around the country have expressed doubt that all those responsible for Don Bolles' murder were ultimately held accountable — even nearly 50 years later."

See BOLLES RECORDS, Page 5A



On June 3, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu downplayed a heated exchange with President Donald Trump, saying that, while there may be "technical disagreements," the two leaders "agree on most things."

JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

Trump: Iran agrees to no nukes for now

President confirms tense exchange with Israeli leader

Francesca Chambers,
Christopher Cann and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said in a podcast that Iran agreed to never have a nuclear weapon but said the regime could change its mind before the deal that's under discussion with the United States is finished.

"They can change their mind, but that was one of the things they've had to agree, they've agreed to that. That was the big thing," Trump said on the "Pod Force One" podcast with Miranda Devine.

Trump also admitted in the podcast he called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "[expletive] crazy" during a recent phone call, confirming reporting from outlets including Axios. After the call, Trump said the operation was off and Israeli troops heading to Beirut would turn around.

Netanyahu on June 3 downplayed the exchange with Trump, saying while there may be "technical

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