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MARICOPA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

Monday, May 5, 2008

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Republic: Officer shot during traffic stop 05-05 news story by Philip Haldiman

A Phoenix police officer was in the hospital Monday morning after being shot during a traffic stop. A man suspected of shooting him is also in the hospital awaiting questioning after fleeing the scene and then being found by a police dog, said Stacie Derge, a Phoenix police spokesperson. Derge said the following occurred: Officer Mario Gaxiola, 35, pulled over Kenneth R. Kensey, 26, early Monday morning near the 4200 block of North 35th Avenue. Kensey immediately shot at Gaxiola several times. Gaxiola was hit in the leg and did not return fire, and immediately ran for cover around a building in a shopping center. Kensey then drove away, but crashed into some landscaping bushes in a parking lot. He then ran from the car and a police dog found him hiding under a different car in the parking lot. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505officershot05-ON.html>

KPHO: MCSO: Illegal Immigrant Rapes, Impregnates Girl, 11 05-02 news story

RAINBOW VALLEY, Ariz. -- An 18-year-old illegal immigrant has been arrested in connection with the rape of an 11-year-old girl, Maricopa County sheriff's deputies said. Enrique Jacobo-Valdez was booked into the Fourth Avenue Jail on two counts of sexual conduct with a minor. Jacobo-Valdez is currently unemployed and had a warrant out for his arrest from Pinal County for possession of dangerous drugs, deputies said. He was living with the child's family at the time of the alleged incident. He was a family friend they took in four years ago. "You think you think you're taking care of kids the right way, then something unexpected happens," the victim's grandmother said. "Just recently, I think, we started picking up on little things like they wanted to be together." . . .

<http://www.kpho.com/news/16140003/detail.html> (related: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115472>, <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2008/05/02/20080502swv-sexcrime0502-ON.html>)

Republic: Maricopa County jail inmate found beaten to death 05-02 news story by JJ Hensley

Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies arrested an inmate at the Fourth Avenue Jail on Thursday night on suspicion of beating another inmate to death. According to reports from the sheriff's office, Pete Van Winkle, 26, beat Robert Leroy Cotton, 28, to the point of unconsciousness and was about to toss Cotton over a second-floor railing when detention officers intervened. Sheriff's officials said Van Winkle's assault on Cotton took place in a secluded section of a cell where cameras couldn't capture the totality of the beating. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/02/20080502jailhousedeath0502-ON.html>

Tribune: Store clerk shoots would-be robber 05-05 news story by Mike Branom,

A man's attempted armed robbery of a central Mesa store was foiled Sunday when the clerk fought back with a Taser, his fists and a handgun, police said. The 30-year-old suspect, shot several times by a clerk at Mesa Mart, 1510 S. Country Club Drive, was listed in critical condition at Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn, police spokeswoman Detective Chris Arvayo said. Although the 55-year-old clerk had been assaulted with a pipe, he did not require extensive medical attention. The clerk most likely will not face any criminal charges. . .

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115530>

KTAR: US Marshals in Phoenix arrest child rape suspect from N.M. 05-03 AP news story

PHOENIX - The U.S. Marshals Service says its agents in Phoenix have arrested a suspected child rapist from New Mexico. Lance Kelly was wanted by Albuquerque police for allegedly raping a 10-year-old girl. Police and Marshals agents in N.M. learned he was living in the Phoenix area and alerted an Arizona fugitive task force. The Marshals Service says that task force tracked the 51-year-old to an apartment in a Phoenix suburb and arrested Kelly on Friday afternoon. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=826235&r=1>

Republic: Officials: Kidnapping suspects, 2 abducted children found 05-04 news story by Yvonne Wingett

The two children abducted Saturday evening from a Mohave Valley home were found safe Sunday afternoon and returned to their temporary home. The Amber Alert issued by Mohave County authorities was canceled about 2 p.m. Sunday. Jennifer A. Simmons, 31, and Raymond Richard Bowen, 46, were in custody of the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, authorities said. Simmons is the children's mother, the Sheriff's Office said. Deputies allege that the pair took Cali Herrera, 9, Frankie Herrera,

6, from a home in the western Arizona community. The children were returned about 3 p.m. Sunday, according to Andrea Smith, who is caring for the children. "They're a little shook up and all, but they're doing fine," she said. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/04/20080504amberalert.html>

KTAR: Peoria summer rec employee accused of molesting 3 girls 05-02 news story

A City of Peoria summer recreation program employee was arrested for allegedly molesting three young girls on field trips. Gordon Johnstone, 34, was assigned to the summer program at Cheyenne Elementary School. He's accused of having sexual contact with three girls, ages 7 to 9, while on buses heading to field trips in the summer of 2007. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=825930&r=1>

KTAR: 90 busted in drug smuggling operation 05-02 news story by by Sandra Haros

Nearly 90 people were busted in a four-month investigation called "Operation Piano Man." A group of ten illegal immigrants were getting weekly shipments of drugs smuggled in from Mexico. Phoenix police lieutenant Vince Piano said their east Valley customers were mostly teens and young adults. "The group was so regimented over the past ten years that they would work throughout the day and make about \$8,000-\$10,000 a day just distributing at street level," Piano said. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=825926&r=1>

KTAR/KPHO: Body found on Glendale roadway, police need help identifying 05-03 news story

A body was found in the middle of the street in Glendale overnight and police said they need help solving the case. It happened just before 9 p.m. Friday near 51st and Northern avenues. Police said a driver spotted the body of a Hispanic man in his 20s in the middle of a street. Officers said the victim suffered upper body trauma. There are no leads or witnesses, according to police. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=826453&r=1>

Republic: Clemency rejected for killer of 'Republic' reporter 05-02 news story by Michael Kiefer

A state panel took mere minutes Friday morning to reject a clemency plea from Max Dunlap, the only person who remains jailed in the 1976 contract killing of Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles. The Arizona Board of Executive Clemency made the decision following roughly 90 minutes of testimony, including arguments by Dunlap's representative that the inmate is old and has severe medical problems that the state prison system cannot properly address. Dunlap, 78, was not present for the proceeding. He's not eligible for parole until 2014. The representative, David Frazer, also protested that Dunlap is innocent of Bolles' assassination. Four of the five-member board were presented and they voted unanimously to reject the plea. Frazer tried unsuccessfully to continue the hearing until he could get a medical expert to testify about the severity of Dunlap's medical condition. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/02/20080502dunlap0502-ON.html>

Republic: 1 killed by wrong-way driver on Loop 202 05-04 news story by Lily Leung

A driver going the wrong way on the Loop 202 Santan Freeway struck and killed another motorist early Sunday morning. Authorities believe alcohol may have been a factor. Nemo Nicholas, 35, of Chandler, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The suspected wrong-way driver, 21-year-old Alonso Pena Reyes of San Bernardino, Calif., was taken to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn in critical condition, said Lt. James Warriner, a DPS spokesman. The incident began when Phoenix police received a call about someone driving the wrong way in the 2400 block of East Pecos Road, Warriner said. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/04/20080504fatal0504-ONL.html>

KTAR: Town begins looking for new law enforcement 05-05 AP news story

A possible future without Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his deputies was the topic of discussion during a town meeting in Guadalupe. Residents are starting to look ahead to a time when deputies will no longer be patrolling the town. A group of about 90 people gathered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Sunday to discuss law-enforcement options that range from creating its own police force to continuing with the Sheriff's Office. Arpaio has threatened to pull out of Guadalupe in 180 days after city officials complained about saturation patrols and immigrant roundups in the one-square mile city last month. The two-day enforcement action was the latest in a string of crackdowns around the county intended to apprehend illegal immigrants. Residents were asked by organizers Sunday to consider six options for law enforcement in the city of 5,500 people. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=827333&r=1> (related: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505az-arpaio05-on.html>)

Mesa Police Chief: No word yet on sheriff's patrols: <http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=827421&r=1>

Sheriff going to Mesa, tells illegals to get out of town: <http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=825462&r=1>

Republic: Policeman shot on duty gets ovation from council 05-05 news story by Jessica Coomes

Relying on a walker, Goodyear police Officer Ricky Melrose hobbled in front of the City Council, but before he could speak, everyone in the room rose to their feet and applauded. Melrose, who was shot by a robber nearly three months ago, deflected the attention last week. "You guys should be clapping for these two gentlemen over here," Melrose said, pointing out fellow Officers Josh White and David Bryant. "They're the ones who saved my life out there. I just took a bullet." Police said the robber, Billy Robert McGinty, shot Melrose in the chest and hip and his K-9 partner, Zip, in the ear. White and Bryant fired at McGinty, killing him. A bulletproof vest protected Melrose's chest, but his hip injury is more severe. He will be using a walker for six more weeks. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505wvmelrose0505.html?source=nletter-news>

KTAR: Fallen DPS officers remembered 05-04 AP news story

PHOENIX (AP) _ Twenty-six Arizona Department of Public Safety officers who have been killed in the line of duty will be remembered at a ceremony in Phoenix on Monday. Gov. Janet Napolitano and DPS Director Roger Vanderpool will speak at the 9 a.m. ceremony in front of the DPS officer monument in downtown Phoenix. This year marks the tenth anniversary since the monument was dedicated. . .

Republic: Arrest warrants piling up in Valley, Police agencies struggle to clear 41,000 felony cases 05-05 news story by JJ Hensley

A coalition of federal and local law-enforcement officers swoop into a West Valley apartment and arrest a 51-year-old New Mexico man suspected of raping a 10-year-old girl. And with that, another felony warrant came off the books. But Lance Kelly was wanted in Albuquerque, and his apprehension late Friday afternoon will do nothing to make a dent in the 41,000 felony warrants or 30,000 misdemeanor warrants pending among agencies in Maricopa County, a list that grows by 500 to 600 weekly. Kelly's apprehension was relatively easy in the world of serving warrants. A task force made up of local agencies got a tip that Kelly was in Arizona on Friday morning, and after brief surveillance, authorities were able to grab the suspect without incident. Aside from the warrants cleared through traffic stops, most cases that involve catching fugitives aren't that quick or straightforward, which explains why tens of thousands remain open, although 12,000 warrants have been cleared so far this year through arrests or dismissal by the courts. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505warrants0505.html?source=nletter-news>

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

KTAR: DPS seizes 4,100 pounds of pot on I-17 05-03 AP news story

Arizona highway patrol officers say they seized 4,100 pounds of marijuana and arrested a Florida man after stopping a big rig headed from Tucson to Philadelphia. Sgt. Harold Sanders of the Arizona Department of Public Safety says the semi-truck was stopped on Interstate 17 north of Phoenix late Friday. An officer became suspicious and asked for permission to search the truck's trailer. It was loaded with 20 pallets of boxes of plastic foam plates - and five pallets in the front of the trailer loaded with 184 bales of marijuana. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=826479&r=1> (related:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/03/20080503marijuana-ON.html>)

KVOA: Man in alleged dog fighting ring now accused of sexual exploitation of minors 05-02 news story by Quinn Schuler

A Sahuarita man accused of being involved in one of the largest, dog fighting investigations in the country is now charged with keeping graphic images of children. Juan Verdin is one of six suspects initially arrested in February. On February 19th, swat teams raided four homes in Pima County, seizing about 150 dogs and puppies, some baring the scars of dog fighting. . .

http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8260425&nav=menu216_3

KTAR: New police chief at least a year away in Tucson 05-02 AP news story

City officials will wait at least a year to hire a police chief to succeed Richard Miranda, who is retiring. Miranda has assumed some duties as an assistant city manager and will officially start that job on July 1. Deputy police Chief Kermit Miller has agreed to stay on as the interim chief until June 2009, when he will retire. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=825354&r=1>

KTAR: Female inmates get job training 05-03 AP news story

TUCSON, Ariz. - Karin Smith stood defiantly before Judge Richard Nichols in 2001 as the Pima County Superior Court official sentenced her to 10 years in prison for drunken driving. "I told the judge 'In 10 years, all you're going to get is a decade-older alcoholic,'" Smith, 54, said this month at the Arizona State Prison Complex in Perryville. Smith expected that she'd do her time, then return to Tucson and continue on her perilous journey of self-destruction. She never expected programs initiated by Arizona Department of Corrections Director Dora Schriro would erase her feelings of hopelessness, she said. "When I return to Pima County in 2009, I hope what I do is going to be worth my citizenship," Smith said. "I've come full circle." Schriro brought a plan to DOC when Gov. Janet Napolitano appointed her in June 2003 to "put the corrections back in the Department of Corrections" and cut recidivism by a "parallel universe" program that teaches inmates how to lead productive lives after release. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=826421&r=1>

KTAR: Phoenix woman gets prison for smuggling children into US 05-03 AP news story

TUCSON, Ariz. - A Phoenix woman has been sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for trying to smuggle two Mexican children into the U.S. Monica Rodriguez was arrested last July as she tried to enter the country at Nogales. The 27-year-old was with two boys and presented Arizona birth certificates belonging to her own children to show they were legal residents. Customs agents interviewed the 3- and 13-year-old boys and became suspicious. Rodriguez eventually admitted that the children weren't hers and that she had been paid \$500 to bring them across the border. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=826419&r=1>

KTAR: Assistant chief asks Tucson officers to stop complaining to citizens 05-05 AP news story

Top officials within Tucson police want officers to stop complaining to citizens about contract issues. Officers are reportedly telling people they meet on crime calls the police department needs more money to ensure adequate service. That's a concern to Deputy Chief Kermit Miller. He sent officers an e-mail last week telling them when they're on police business they should not discuss budget matters and a need for more city resources with crime victims. The department hasn't received any formal complaints dealing with such conversations with officers and the public, Miller said. Miller said he discussed the matter with Officer Mike Gurr, a member of the Tucson Police Officers Association. Gurr told him the union was not telling officers to tell people at crime scenes that the police department needs more money. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=827332&r=1>