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MARICOPA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

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Republic: Triple shooting reported in El Mirage 05-05 news story by Chelsea Schneider

A shooting in El Mirage sent three people to the hospital with gunshot wounds, according to El Mirage Police Chief Mike Frazier. Police reported three to four males between the ages of 16 and 19 were driving westbound on Thunderbird Road. When they passed six men on the corner of Thunderbird Road and Primrose Street, Frazier said someone yelled something from the vehicle. Shots then were fired from the vehicle hitting three of the pedestrians. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/2008/05/05/20080505abrkmirageshooting0506.html>

Republic: Burning body discovered in south Phoenix 05-06 news story by Philip Haldiman

Police are investigating the case of a man who was killed and the body set on fire in an alley in south Phoenix early Monday. It was at least the fifth body that has been found set on fire in the last two months in the Valley. A Phoenix police spokeswoman said there was no immediate evidence to suggest a link in the cases. "We are looking at and aware that there have been several burned bodies recently, but at this time we do not know if they are related or not," Detective Stacie Derge said. Firefighters on Monday found a body "fully engulfed" in flames in front of a trash bin near Fourth Street and Broadway Road, said Capt. Hugh Chase, a Phoenix Fire Department spokesman. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506BurnedBody0506.html?source=nletter-news>

Tribune: DNA links 2 East Valley slayings, sexual assault 05-05 news story by Gary Grado and Katie McDevitt

He brazenly abducted a woman in broad daylight, haphazardly discarded two bodies on Mesa streets and at one point even took a victim into a house. But a possible serial killer -- who also carelessly left his DNA on each victim -- has somehow eluded police since 2004. On Monday, police announced that the November 2004 strangulation of 21-year-old Alisa M. Beck, the October killing of 44-year-old Karen Jane Campbell and the sexual assault and kidnap of a Mesa pedestrian are linked. "Last week the forensic evidence showed a match in these cases," said Mesa police Chief George Gascón during a news conference. Investigators discovered the cases were related through CODIS, the national DNA archive, which contains the DNA of known felons and criminals who have left genetic material on victims. . .

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115545> (related:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0505mesakiller0505-on.html>)

Republic: Motorcycle officer shot in leg; suspect held 05-06 news story by Philip Haldiman

A Phoenix police motorcycle officer was shot in the leg while trying to stop a driver for speeding in west Phoenix. Officer Mario Gaxiola, an eight-year veteran, was shot early Monday. He was in stable condition but expected to be in the hospital overnight for evaluation. Kenneth R. Kensey, 26, was arrested in connection with the shooting after being found by a police dog, said Stacie Derge, a Phoenix police spokesperson. Gaxiola, 35, attempted to pull over a suspect shortly after midnight near the 4200 block of North 35th Avenue, Derge said. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506officershot0506.html?source=nletter-news>

KTAR: 2 Phoenix massage parlors busted for prostitution 05-05 news story by Sandra Haros

The Phoenix Police Department has shut down two so-called massage parlors in north Phoenix after a year-long investigation uncovered the locations were being used for prostitution. Two adult females, both 49-years-old, identified as Yuan Y. Matthews and Yuqin Wang, are accused of working as prostitutes and were taken into custody. Police continue searching for two additional suspects, 38-year-old Xia Guo and 44-year-old Jing Wang (pictured above, left to right). On Monday, authorities served search warrants at Blue Spirit Massage Parlor and Fantastic Massage Parlor and found ledgers, dozens of video tapes of "johns" using the services of the prostitutes, cash and evidence that the prostitutes were working in other states across the country. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=828113&r=1> (related:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506massage0506.html?source=nletter-news>)

KTAR/KPHO: Wal-Mart shopper confronts suspected sex predator 05-05 news story

TEMPE, Ariz. -- A Valley mother shopping at a Wal-Mart in Tempe confronted a suspected child predator talking her 8-year-old daughter and two nieces. Rana Hermosillo said a stranger approached the children in a shopping aisle at the Wal-Mart at Priest Drive and Elliott on Sunday. Hermosillo said she could overhear what the man was telling them. "Women's underwear,

seeing private parts, things to do with private parts, touching, touching girls and touching women he was saying to them," Hermosillo said. A split second later, Hermosillo said she saw the man touch one of the girls. "He rubbed the front of his body against the back side of her body," she said. Hermosillo said she called the girls away and then confronted the man face to face. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=828269&r=1>

Tribune: Chandler man accused of wrecking car, running now charged 05-04 blog post by Mike Branom

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office has filed charges against a Chandler man who allegedly crashed a car, critically injuring his teenage nephew, and then fled on foot. James Wesley Allen, 21, and his cousin were also hurt in the April 27 crash on the Loop 202 frontage road leading to Chandler Fashion Center. In the direct complaint filed two days after the crash and announced Friday, prosecutors charged Allen with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of leaving the scene of a serious injury accident. The 14-year-old nephew was asleep in the back seat at the time of the early-morning crash. He suffered numerous life-threatening injuries, including a broken neck, fractured skull and bleeding on the brain. . .

<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/04/chandler-man-accused-of-wrecking-car-running-now-charged/>

KTAR: Tempe officials say fatal fire was arson 05-06 AP news story

Tempe fire officials say a blaze that killed a business owner at an industrial complex was deliberately set. Mike Reichling, a spokesman for the Tempe Fire Department, said investigators found gasoline inside the building. The fire started around 6 a.m. Monday. When emergency crews arrived, they found the victim inside a Chrysler four-door sedan that had been backed into building. The victim died hours later at the Arizona Burn Center at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=828562&r=1> (related: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115537>)

Tribune: Man can't remember shooting 05-05 blog post by Gary Grado

A man who was shot in Mesa Sunday was too intoxicated to give any information to police about his assailant. According to Mesa police, the man's friend picked him up at 921 W. University Drive and took him to Banner Desert Hospital about 5:30 a.m. The friend didn't know where the shooting happened and the victim only remembered a green door and being near the cemetery off of Country Club Drive. . .

<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/05/man-cant-remember-shooting/>

Republic: Mormon teens attacked at park 05-05 news story by Emily Gersema

Two Gilbert teens found with swastika marks on their wrists are accused of firing pellets at two boys and beating them up because they are Mormon, according to a police report released Monday. Police said the attack Saturday evening at a neighborhood park northeast of Islands Elementary School left one victim, a 15-year-old boy, with facial injuries. He was taken to a local hospital. According to the report, the teens accused in the attack near Elliot and McQueen roads went up to the boy and a 17-year-old and asked if he and the 15-year-old were Mormon. When the two answered "yes," the teens began shooting a pellet gun at them. Police say the fight escalated from there, with the teens making anti-Mormon statements during the assault. The teens who are accused of firing the guns, ages 15 and 16, were arrested outside one of the boy's homes that night. They were booked into the Maricopa County Juvenile Detention Facility on suspicion of aggravated assault, disorderly conduct and underage drinking. The 16-year-old also is accused of DUI. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2008/05/05/20080505beating0506.html> (related: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115567>)

Republic: arrested after brawl outside Scottsdale club 05-05 news story by Carol Sowers

SCOTTSDALE - A 24-year-old man was injured and two others were arrested during a fight in the crowded parking lot of a Scottsdale nightclub. Police said the victim was hit on the head with the beer bottle about 2 a.m. Saturday at Club Rain, 1420 N. Scottsdale Road. He was treated for a minor head laceration and released from Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn. A witness identified the assailant as 27-year-old Jon Purdie of Chandler. He was booked on one count of aggravated assault. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505sr-barfight0506.html>

Tribune: Man robs couple walking through BK parking lot in Gilbert 05-05 blog post by Mike Branom

Gilbert police are looking for a man responsible for a weekend armed robbery. On Saturday night, the suspect exited a car in the parking lot of a Burger King at the intersection of Cooper and Baseline Roads, pointed a gun at the two victims and took their money. He then got back into the car, a red older-model hatchback, and left. . .

<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/05/man-robs-couple-walking-through-bk-parking-lot-in-gilbert/>

Republic: 'Friend of family' accused of impregnating 11-year-old 05-05 news story by Elias C. Arnold

An 18-year-old man accused of impregnating an 11-year-old girl was a friend of her family and had lived with them for nearly four years, according to court documents. Enrique Jacobo-Valdez was arrested Thursday on suspicion of two counts of sexual conduct with a minor, a felony. Capt. Paul Chagolla, a Maricopa County Sheriff's Office spokesman, said the young girl lives near Buckeye in the southwest Valley, where Jacobo-Valdez was seen running from the home after deputies arrived. Court documents say the family had taken him in "to help him out." A probable-cause statement filed with Maricopa County Superior Court says the suspect admitted having sex with the girl. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0505swv-sexcrime0505-ON.html>

Tribune: Police seek information in woman's attack 05-06 news story by Mike Sakal

Scottsdale police are asking for the public's assistance in identifying a man who they say attacked a woman at the front gate of her condominium complex near downtown late last month. Police released a sketch of the man on Monday. The woman described the attacker as Hispanic, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, with a heavy build and dark, wavy hair. The man reportedly attacked the woman at about midnight April 26 at the front gate of the Scottsdale Springs Condominiums, 7777 E. Main St. The woman told police she was going home and heard footsteps behind her as she approached the gate. The man then grabbed the woman, pulled her to the ground and groped her, according to police. . .

(print edition)

Tribune: Civilian aides save police time, money 05-06 news story by David Biscobing

Routine calls are Gilbert officer David Boyd's bread and butter: noninjury crashes, barking dogs, parking tickets. They're not the sexiest tasks. But they're the ones he gets. And as a former Orange County sheriff's deputy, Boyd admits he's seen more exciting days. "Police work is usually five hours of sheer boredom followed by 10 seconds of sheer fright," he said. "I just don't get those 10 seconds anymore." But Boyd knows the value of his job. He's a civilian patrol officer. It's a position used by police departments across the East Valley, and one that police officials say saves their departments considerable time and money while keeping sworn officers free to actively fight crime. . .

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115569>

Tribune: Mesa police remember fallen brothers 05-05 news story by Gary Grado

With an honor guard and bagpipes player, Mesa police on Monday remembered Steven Pollard and Hyrum Smith Peterson, their two fallen officers. Police officers throughout the state memorialized fallen officers from their respective agencies in similar ceremonies leading up to National Police Week, which runs next week and includes National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15. It is a day of honor designated in 1962 by President Kennedy. Mesa police Chief George Gascón said police officers see their jobs as more of a calling. "It is about public service," Gascón said at Mesa's ceremony. Last year, 187 officers nationwide lost their lives in the line of duty and 37 have so far this year. Mesa lost its first peace officer on Nov. 12, 1913. . .

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115572>

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

Republic: 3 illegal immigrants say armed, masked men raped them 05-05 AP news story

TUCSON - Two teenagers and a 20-year-old woman say armed men wearing masks raped them after they illegally crossed the Arizona-Mexico border. The Arizona Daily Star reports on its Web site that the three reported a group of masked men carrying rifles approached their group of 10 border-crossers on Friday and then raped the three of them. The teens were 16 and 17 years old. U.S. Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels says one of the three said she was raped by six men, and the other two said they were each raped once. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/05/20080505border-rapes0505-ON.html>

KTAR: Suspect shot near Sedona 05-05 AP news story

A car theft suspect is in critical condition after being shot by one or more officers with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. DPS spokesman Lt. James Warriner said Monday that officers pulled the man over Friday on Interstate 17 near Sedona, and "as soon as he pulled over, he came out shooting." Warriner says at least two officers fired at the suspect. He did not know where the man was wounded or how many times he was shot. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=827976&r=1>

KVOA: Towing law is taxing law enforcement agencies 05-05 news story by Lupita Murillo

An Arizona seizure law is keeping both police and towing companies hopping. It's called ARS 35-11. The law mandates:

- Cops impound a vehicle for 30 days if the driver has a suspended license
- Is driving under the influence,
- Is in an accident and doesn't have insurance or is driving without a license.

Frontier Towing is picking up about 300 vehicles a month and taking them to their impound lot. They have a contract with Pima County to hold the vehicles for 30 days. . .

http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8275260&nav=menu216_3

KTAR: Town Hall scheduled in St. George for polygamists 05-05 news story

Attorneys General Terry Goddard of Arizona and Mark Shurtleff of Utah will hold a town hall meeting in St. George, Utah, Thursday night to discuss relationships between law enforcement and the polygamist border communities of Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah. Arizona State Rep. David Lujan, D-Phoenix; Centennial Park resident Don Timpson and Utah Safety Net Coordinator Paul Murphy will join Goddard and Shurtleff in a panel discussion at the Town Hall. The event, at the Dixie Center in St. George, is open to the public. "Previous Town Halls have all been productive, and this year's will be an important opportunity to strengthen relations between law enforcement and the Colorado City/Hildale community," Goddard said. "We started this discussion five years ago, and this meeting will be a good chance to reflect on where we have gone and where we need to go," Shurtleff added. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=827842&r=1>

KVOA: Chalk artist caught doing graffiti by police

A man in his 20's is facing charges after allegedly being caught creating a controversial chalk creation. The images were spotted just after midnight Monday, along Congress Street and Scott Avenue. Police say a good portion of downtown area was covered in chalk graffiti. This included buildings, streets, and signs. Police caught one of the artists, 27 year old Bilal Mir, in the act. . .

http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8275782&nav=menu216_3

Daily Star: Red-light cameras fall prey to vandalism, Several photo devices twisted out of focus at intersections 04-22 news story by Dale Quinn

Someone in Tucson isn't happy about the city's red-light cameras. A vandal re-aimed most of the traffic cameras at collision-prone intersections over the weekend in an apparent attempt to keep them from snapping photos of speeders and red-light runners, an official said. Tucson police traffic Sgt. James Scott said he got an e-mail from the vendor that provides the cameras saying that many of them in the city had been vandalized. Whether it's because

