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MARICOPA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

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Republic: Gang task force called to El Mirage after shootings 05-06 news story by Lily Leung

El Mirage police will bring members of the state gang task force to the city tonight after three teenagers were shot Monday night in what appeared to be a gang-related shooting. None of the victims, aged 15, 19 and 19, received life-threatening injuries in the shooting at Thunderbird Road and Primrose Street, Police Chief Michael Frazier said today. One victim entered surgery this morning for a lower-body gunshot wound, while another who was shot in rear part of the body is expected to be released today. The third victim was released Monday night. The victims' names were not released due to the nature of the investigation, Frazier said. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506gl-nvwshooting0506-ONL.html>

KTAR: Officials: Phoenix gun dealer sold to drug cartels 05-06 news story by Jim Cross and Jana Baybado

A Phoenix gun store raided by federal and state officials Tuesday provided hundreds of assault rifles and other guns to violent drug cartels in Mexico, where such weapons are used in deadly confrontations between rival cartels and against law enforcement officers, officials said. The gun store's owner, George Iknadosian, 46, was arrested following the raid, as were two Mexican brothers who authorities say recruited "straw buyers" to go into X Caliber Guns near Cave Creek and Thunderbird roads and purchase weapons that would then be trafficked to the drug cartels. Iknadosian knew where the guns would end up, said Carlos Baixauli, a special agent with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=828700&r=1> (related:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/07/20080507akbust0507.html?source=nletter-news>)

Republic: Cars hit and kill man in wheelchair, then flee 05-06 news story by JJ Hensley

Phoenix police are searching for two cars that hit-and-killed a man in a wheelchair early Tuesday morning. The man, who police have not identified, was northbound crossing Thunderbird Road near 24th Avenue shortly after midnight Tuesday when he was struck by an eastbound car and a westbound car on Thunderbird. Neither car stopped. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2008/05/06/20080506hitrun0506-ON.html>

Tribune: Robbery suspect stabs a man outside a grocery store 05-06 blog post by Eddi Trevizo

A man was arrested on suspicion of robbing a Mesa grocery store and stabbing a man in the arm. Mesa police said they arrested Scott L. Schaefer, 44, after he left an Albertson's at 1951 W. Baseline in Mesa with several items concealed on his person Monday afternoon. Schaefer is also suspected of stabbing a man who attempted to stop him as he left, leaving a two inch wound on the man's arm. According to police Schaefer was able to get away by climbing into the bed of a white truck waiting outside the store. . .

<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/06/robbery-suspect-stabs-a-man-outside-a-grocery-store/>

Tribune: Intervener shot at during argument 05-07 news story by Gary Grado

Guns and knives came out Monday when a man stopped to intervene in an argument between a man and a woman. According to Mesa police, the couple were arguing outside their apartment at 901 S. Country Club Drive when a man on a bike stopped to tell the other man to be more respectful to the woman. The bicyclist appeared to be drunk and had a knife on his belt. . .

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115694>

KTAR/KPHO: Man attacked with baseball bat, car near Encanto Park 05-06 news story

A group of men with baseball bats and a steel rod attacked a man on a bicycle Monday, then hit him with a car, witnesses said. The attack happened shortly before 4 p.m. near Encanto Park in Phoenix. A witness, who asked to be identified only as Stephen, said the victim was riding his bicycle north on 15th Avenue when the attackers climbed out of a car and went after him. "They were yelling at him. One guy had a bat, another one had a steel -- looked like a rod," Stephen said. "When I see somebody running with a bat, chasing somebody, you know something's going to happen." . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=829181&r=1>

Tribune: Queen Creek robbery suspect dies in pursuit 05-06 AP news story

QUEEN CREEK, Ariz. (AP) -- A possible suspect in an armed robbery at a Queen Creek convenience store died when his car slammed into an oncoming 18-wheeler during a police pursuit. The Pinal County Sheriff's Office says the suspect's car was attempting to pass two cars on Hunt Highway near Thompson Road and collided with the semi, with both vehicles exploding in flames. The driver of the car died at the scene. The sheriff's office says the trucker suffered minor injuries in the collision, which forced the closure of Hunt Highway for the Wednesday morning commute. . .
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AZ_DEADLY_PURSUIT_AZOL-?SITE=AZMES&SECTION=STATE&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Republic: Suspect held in random-gunfire killing 05-06 news story by Elias C. Arnold

A 29-year-old Phoenix man has been arrested in the death of a man killed when apparent random gunfire struck him, police said Tuesday. Jason Daniel Romero faces second-degree murder and related charges after police say they got a tip about him firing a gun in the direction of the victim's mobile-home park. Jeff A. Yale, 47, was fatally shot Jan. 16 while sitting on his living room couch in the 300 block of West Lower Buckeye Road in Avondale. A roommate found him dead early that morning and police soon determined the bullet came from an area northeast of the residence. . .
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506swv-arrest0506-ON.html>

Tribune: Man threatens family with knife 05-06 news story by Eddi Trevizo

Scottsdale police arrested a man who barricaded himself inside a home after threatening his relatives with a knife during a family dispute. Mark Noppenberg, 47, barricaded himself in the residence near 8700 East Oak Street on Tuesday about 5:30 p.m., according to Scottsdale police. Authorities used a diversionary device and a Taser to take suspect into custody. Police say Noppenberg was transferred to a local hospital to treat a few minor injuries, and that he will be booked on domestic violence related charges. . .
<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/06/man-threatens-family-with-knife/>

KTAR: Hospital workers charged for not reporting abuse complaint 05-06 AP news story

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. - Four hospital employees were charged with misdemeanors for failing to tell police about a stroke patient's complaint that she'd been sexually attacked by an employee, Scottsdale police said Tuesday. The victim told officials at Scottsdale Healthcare-Osborn Hospital about the assault on Dec. 12, police said. However, the hospital didn't report the incident until Jan. 14. State law requires medical personnel in charge of "vulnerable adults" to immediately report suspected abuse to police. . .
<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=829284&r=1> (related:
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506sexassault0507.html>)

Republic: Arpaio targets FH in latest sweep; 10 arrested 05-06 news story by Beth Duckett

FOUNTAIN HILLS - Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio turned his controversial crime sweeps on Fountain Hills Tuesday, arresting 10 people, including three suspected of being in the country illegally. The seven-hour patrol netted the arrest of a 15-year-old girl who was missing from school and her uncle, both identified as illegal immigrants. Arpaio, who lives in Fountain Hills, said he would continue the efforts Wednesday. "My crime suppression efforts know no boundaries," the sheriff said, alluding to previous crime sweeps in Phoenix and, most recently, Guadalupe. . .
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506sr-sweep0506.html>

Tribune: Group of firefighters detain suspected thief 05-06 blog post by Katie McDevitt

A group of firefighters confronted a suspected thief Monday as he was breaking into a vehicle parked at a Mesa Fire Station. Police arrested Leo Henry Garske, 44, at the station, located at 1340 W. University Drive, and booked him into jail on suspicion of burglary. . .
<http://copshop.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/06/group-of-firefighters-detain-suspected-thief/>

Republic: Gunman lifts man's wallet in Tolleson 05-06 news story by Elias C. Arnold

An unidentified robber stole a man's wallet at gunpoint early Tuesday in Tolleson, police said. According to police, the robber targeted the 55-year-old victim about 12:30 a.m. in the 9200 block of West McKinley. The robber then pointed his gun at the victim's 44-year-old brother when the brother confronted him. . .
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506swv-robbery0506-ON.html>

Tribune: Man punches woman, steals her car 05-07 news story by Gary Grado

A woman was punched in the face and her car stolen Monday in the parking lot of her apartment complex. The woman was backing out of her space at 4:30 p.m. at 930 S. Dobson Road when a man approached and slugged her, causing her to back into a wall and stop. He then pulled her from the car and jumped in before leaving. . .
(print edition)

Republic: Response teams test ability to mobilize 05-07 news story by Lindsey Collom

Phoenix police Sgt. Kendell Moreland was about to be tested. While dressed in full SWAT gear and breathing compressed air, Moreland broke open a door with a battering ram and dragged a 160-pound body about 80 feet to a cone and back. With a 50-pound ram in one hand and a 25-pound ballistic shield in the other, he ran another couple of hundred feet. Finally, Moreland and three teammates entered a dark, smoke-filled room and rescued a child lost somewhere inside. Valley police and fire personnel conducted a multiagency terrorism drill Tuesday to test their ability to react to a disaster outside the metro Phoenix area. The scenario was a Columbine-like siege in Prescott Valley. The exercise Moreland and others went through is designed to induce the kind of physical stress that responders face in emergency situations, and it showed. . .
<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/07/20080507drill0507.html?source=nletter-news>

Republic: Scottsdale police trying to coax man out of home 05-06 news story by JJ Hensley

Scottsdale Police are trying to coax a man out of his home after he barricaded himself inside Tuesday evening. Police responded to a home near Pima Road and Oak Street about 6:30 Tuesday after getting a call about a family disturbance at a

home in the area. The home was evacuated except for the family's adult son, who police were originally called about, said Officer Dave Pubins, a Scottsdale Police spokesman. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506standoff0506-ON.html>

Republic: Deputy rescues woman in overturned vehicle 05-06 news story by Chelsea Schneider

A Pinal County Sheriff's deputy rescued a woman on Sunday after he found her on a rural road stuck in an overturned vehicle. Deputy Daniel Campbell found the 70-year-old woman on Old Webb between San Manuel and Oracle with a large gash on her forehead. She told Campbell that she had been in the car for about an hour and a half. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/06/20080506gr-overturned0507-ON.html>

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEWS

Republic: Man charged with slaying of his brother 05-07 AP news story

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. - A 36-year-old man from the southern Arizona town of McNeal has been charged with shooting his own brother to death after an argument. Cochise County Sheriff's officials say Wayne Elliot is being held without bond on a first-degree murder charge. Sheriff's spokeswoman Carol Capas says Elliot was arrested after deputies were called to a McNeal home Sunday evening on an accidental shooting call. Capas says they found 34-year-old Jason Elliot dead of a shotgun wound and later determined he was shot following an argument. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/07/20080507az-broslay07-on.html>

KTAR/KPHO: Clown accused of stealing from elderly widow 05-06 news story

A professional clown is accused of stealing \$500,000 from an elderly widow. Prescott police said Carrie Williams-Thompson, aka Kooki the Clown, 48, befriended the older woman after her husband died. Williams-Thompson obtained power of attorney and used the widow's money to purchase homes, vehicles and a trailer, among other items, police said. Williams-Thompson was arrested in Corona, Calif., and will be extradited to Arizona to face felony charges of fraud, theft, financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, forgery and unlawful use of power of attorney. . .

<http://www.ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=828736&r=1>

KVOA: Former TPD crime lab tech talks to News 4 05-07 news story by Lupita Murillo

Steven Skowron is a former supervisor in the Tucson Police Crime Lab, who resigned the day before he was to be fired. Tucson police began an internal investigation into the matter on February 27. His supervisors found drug evidence from six different cases in Skowron's possession. According to the internal investigation report, Skowron was found to have taken more than 4 grams of meth, 129 grams of powder cocaine, 198 grams of crack cocaine, and 718 grams of cocaine. . .

http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8282862&nav=menu216_3

Republic: Border Patrol rescues 15 border crossers 05-07 AP news story

TUCSON- U.S. Border Patrol agents have been busy rescuing illegal border crossers after they've become severely dehydrated while trying to cross the harsh Arizona desert. Since Monday, the Border Patrol says it has rescued 15 migrants. Agents have also recovered the skeletal remains of a woman about four miles west of the village of Vamori, about 10 miles north of the Mexican border and south of Sells on the Tohono O'odham Nation, agent Michael Scioli said. The woman was found buried under a blanket and a pile of rocks and did not have identification. Determination of her gender was based on undergarments found with the remains, Scioli said. . .

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/07/20080507az-desert07-on.html>

KVOA: No Checkpoints in Cochise County 05-06 news story by Lorraine Rivera

The Tucson Sector continues to lead the nation in the number of illegal immigrant apprehensions. Yet, Cochise County, in southeastern Arizona does not have any Border Patrol checkpoints. The checkpoints are temporary areas of saturation where agents stop vehicles and question drivers for inspection. Currently there are checkpoints in every county of the sector. Sheriff Larry Dever says he would like checkpoints in his county providing the agency supplies the surrounding area with enough support, "I would plead with them the need to be sufficiently staffed in order to provide the complete package with the staff, but if not then just don't put them up at all." Dever claims when temporary checkpoints have been in place smugglers strategically move around the high enforcement area forcing the traffic through surrounding properties. According to Dever that then increases the number of calls his department receives straining his resources. . .

http://www.kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=8281245&nav=menu216_3