

Gila County Sheriff's
Sentinel

The United States of America: "One Nation Under God"

John R. Armer, Sheriff Issue 34 – March 2006 Lu DuBois, Editor

"Meet Your Public Servant's Night" 2006

This year's annual 'Meet Your Public Servant's Night' sponsored by the Roosevelt Kiwanis was a huge success. An impressive number of public officials attended this year, more than have in the past few years. The residents who came to hear what the officials had to say and ask questions was also larger than usual. It was an interesting evening and an informal opportunity to discuss issues with those who make and enforce the rules, regulations and laws we citizens are expected to follow.

Jeannine Thiele was Mistress of Ceremonies.

Those present were: Board of Supervisor's president, Jose Sanchez, and member Shirley Dawson; Sheriff John R. Armer and Sgt. Art Salcido from the Gila County SO; Gary Smith, District Ranger for Tonto Basin Ranger District; Judge Patty Nolan and Judge Duber from the judicial system; Sgt. Richard Alvarez and Officer Adrian Schminin from AZ Department of Public Service; Anna Escobedo, County Clerk; Debi Savage, Deputy County Treasurer; Janet Lenon from Tonto National Monument; Larry Finstad, Search and Rescue Commander; Al Ross with Tonto Basin Fire and Velma Hodson from the Roosevelt Residents Organization.



Al Ross, Sgt. Art, Adrian and Richard, and Judge Patty



Sheriff Armer, Janet Lenon, Gary Smith and Larry Finstad

Larry Finstad: Announced that Search and Rescue would be willing to help the elderly clean up around their homes. They have very few 911 addresses left to deliver most of Roosevelt is complete. SAR will be having a yard sale on Saturday, March 4th to raise money for equipment.

Velma Hodson: Talked about the Community Empowerment Network meeting going on this evening to help communities improve themselves instead of relying on government assistance.

Joe Sanchez: Joe announced he intends to meet with the Roosevelt Residents Organization. There is a new program in Gila County to get homeowners to keep their properties cleaned-up, especially those that are a fire hazard. The Lions are accepting donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids. The Roosevelt Post Office will have a receptacle. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Shirley Dawson: Said she would have gotten here earlier if she had known the DPS Officers were already there. We all know that fires are coming this summer and there are some elderly who will need help cleaning up their property. She said she is available at any time if someone wants to contact her. As far as the bridge over Tonto, it is still being studied. She then reminded the audience that the government is not in charge, we the citizens are.

Sgt. Rich Alvarez: He introduced Adrian Schminin as the new DPS Officer in the Roosevelt/Tonto Basin area. Arizona has a new 'pull-over' law in effect. When you see an emergency vehicle stopped along side of the road, you are to pull over as far as possible and slow down. There is also a new impound law. Your vehicle can now be impounded if you let someone drive it with a suspended license.

Sheriff John Armer: Sheriff said he is proud of the SAR unit in Roosevelt and the way they help the community. He is also expecting the fire season to be bad. Actually last year's never ended, its been going on since last spring. The February Fire is already at 375 acres (*it ended up being much larger than this*) with the winds blowing smoke and ashes into Pine and Strawberry. The Sheriff announced that we recently acquired 2 new patrol boats for Roosevelt and may have 2 more coming. His office is still working on the enhanced 911-system and may be for another year. The state won't replace failing equipment until the 911 addressing system is in place. SAR, Payson Posse and several local fire departments have been working on it.

Janet Lenon: Brought brochures and newsletters to distribute. She announced there would be special tours of Besh-Ba-Gowa and the Cline Terrace at Schoolhouse. There will also be a star talk on March 17th and on March 18th and 19th the annual spring open house will be held at the Monument.

Jeannine announced that the mobile mammogram unit would be at the Roosevelt Substation on Feb. 16th and this year's annual Easter Egg hunt will be held in April

Gary Smith: Talked about fires and length of time without moisture. He also talked about the newly organized Roosevelt Owners committee bringing forward a lot of good ideas and he appreciates their involvement and concerns. There will be a public meeting about vehicular travel on Forest roads. The communities have a need to be able to get around the area without having to get out on the highway. The policy will also establish where that kind of ATV traffic/travel is not appropriate. He said the meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at the Roosevelt Baptist Church at 6:00 pm.

Gary discussed the proposed fee structure for the campgrounds. TBRD is trying to replace the current unfriendly user machines. They get constant complaints on the difficulty of the complicated fee structure. The new structure will be \$6 per vehicle and \$4 per watercraft no matter where one is camping. The annual pass fee will remain at \$30.

Judge Patty Nolan: Said she comes out to be the evening's entertainment (*and she does a good job, too*). She tries to keep up with all the new laws. One new law

states the driver of the vehicle will get the citation, not the vehicle. New insurance laws are also in effect. If the driver doesn't have insurance, the law makes it mandatory a fine be levied, which is now \$905 (with no reduction on a six-month policy), plus the vehicle may be impounded, plates and or driver's license suspended. DUI stats are up but domestic violence cases are down. She now has a probation officer that works out of her court. There are now programs in place for DUI and DV offenders and of course, there are always lots of tickets.

Judge Robert Duber II: He told the audience it's cheaper to get high on meth than it is to buy cigarettes. Meth is a big problem in Gila County right now. Gila County has more prisoners per capita than any other county in the state. Courts have more people going through them than any other county. We send them to jail with high-risk medical problems and the county gets no help for indigent inmates. The solution is not to lock them up but to find a way to solve the problem that put them there which is usually drugs. We need to get communities to pay attention to what is going on around them and let someone in authority know when all is not right. He also talked about wildfires stating that fuel is the problem, not the fires, per se.

Annie Escobedo: Is Clerk of the Supreme Court in Gila County and she will seek reelection in 2006. She talked about the responsibility of serving on a jury. You don't have to be registered to vote to be selected. Having an AZ driver's license will also get you on the list. It's all done by random computer selection, one time, one service for 1½ to 2 years. She has personally served on a jury and said it's a great experience. She encouraged everyone to participate. There is an age limit; at 75 you may request an exemption.

Debi Savage: Said the Treasurer's Office collects taxes but doesn't set the rate. They are responsible for paying jurors when they come in for duty. This coming Thursday they are conducting a tax lien sale.

Al Ross: Said the Fire Dept. has several new things – a web site, new brush/grass rig and a new extrication tool.

Sgt. Art Salcido: Two, new watercraft are now in place and patrolling the water. Deputies are spending more time on the water than usual for this time of year because of the warm weather. Roosevelt Substation hosted a watercraft enforcement officers meeting this morning. There will be an OUI checkpoint on

Roosevelt sometime during the summer. He announced that boating safety education classes are being scheduled for this summer. Roosevelt is the largest of the inland lakes. Deputies from Roosevelt do both water and community patrol with commitment of helping kids and the elderly. The substation annually hosts a fish fry to thank the agencies we work with. We also work closely with volunteers.

Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

'BEST' in Gila County

Gila County Health Department's Breast Education Support Team (BEST) received a grant from the Phoenix affiliate of the Susan B. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation to bring a mobile mammogram unit to rural areas of Gila County. This is the first, and possibly the last, time this unit will visit here.

The primary purpose of the grant is to bring free breast screenings to the residents, especially those in the rural areas of the county. The secondary objective is to increase knowledge of breast cancer thru education and information access. Over 50 area facilities (doctor's offices, hospitals and clinics) were presented with educational materials. In addition, all eleven of the county libraries were provided with videos, pamphlets, brochures and fact sheets, over 8000 pieces in all were distributed for public use. Area physicians were encouraged to share the information with **all** their patients, as men can have breast cancer, too. In fact there is a special piece of literature available just for men.



Huggy Bear, a member of the U. S. Air Force SAR support unit out of Davis-Monthon on TDY at Roosevelt, models one of the t-shirts given out.

The Gila County Health Department has established a resource center for use during daily enquiries and at various health fairs. The staff has developed Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for area media outlets, both electronic and print. They have also saturated the communities around Gila County with fliers.

The mobile mammogram unit staff consists of a full size 18-wheeler with two medical personnel and a driver/set-up person. It made four stops in the county, spending one day at each location, which included: Hayden/Winkelman, Globe/Miami, Roosevelt/ Tonto Basin and Payson. The unit can accommodate a maximum of 40 candidates per day.



BEST member, Carolyn Haro registers a local resident.



Area residents, Gladys Pistol and Sylvia Ewing enter the mobile unit

Gila County Health Dept. staff members, Carolyn Haro, Paula Medina and Betty Vanta accompanied the mobile unit on it's trek around the county and were on hand to register those who signed up to participate. Each resident who kept their appointment was presented with a bag full of goodies which had a pink ribbon pin, a pink writing pen, a BEST tee-shirt and a pink rubber band style bracelet along with educational materials adding some levity to a potentially life-saving procedure. The BEST staff members were please with the participation and response to the program, especially since many of the women were having their first cancer screening. Carolyn Haro mentioned that the Health Department is going to search for another grant to bring this service to bring this service to residents on an annual basis.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

**WATERCRAFT ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND BOATING SAFETY
EDUCATION STAFF MEET AT ROOSEVELT**

Watercraft enforcement officers from Gila County Lake Patrol, Maricopa County Lake Patrol, Coconino County Lake Patrol, AZ Game and Fish and the Coast Guard Auxiliary were joined by DPS and the Game and Fish Boating Safety Education staff during a recent meeting held at the Roosevelt Substation.

Kevin Bergersen Arizona's Boating Law Administrator conducted the meeting. Topics discussed included the vital issues confronted last year on the Colorado River system, the Salt River Chain and Lake Pleasant, which together comprise the major bodies of water in Arizona as well as get ready for this summers boating season.

As in the past several years the leading contributors to watercraft mishaps and citations are operator inattention and operator inexperience.

Game and Fish in conjunction with local lake enforcement is planning to implement several 'wolfpack' operations on the waterways this summer. These activities will target OUI's and safety violations.

A Chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

SAR Says 'Thanks'

On Saturday, March 4th Gila County Search and Rescue (SAR) held a yard sale to raise funds for supplies, equipment and training. According to SAR Commander, Larry Finstad, the event was a success.

He would like to thank all the SAR members who helped with the activity especially Robert and Renee Nims, who donated the stereo system that was raffled during the sale.

A heartfelt thanks goes to the public who donated items for the sale and all those who came out to buy supporting our efforts.

Thanks to Sheriff John R. Armer and the Gila County SO for all their help and continued support, especially the Roosevelt deputies. And thanks, to Deputy Craig Jones, who is the Search and Rescue Coordinator, whose advice and assistance is greatly appreciated.

"Thanks to everyone who helped on the quad raffle. The money we earned on all of the activities will help purchase needed equipment and training. And, I hope to see everyone at our 3rd Annual Yard sale next year."

A lot of money is tainted. 'T aint yours and 'T aint mine.

It's Birthday Time

The next monthly birthday celebration will be held at the Sheriff's Office on Thursday, March 23rd at noon. It will be an Italian potluck spaghetti party. However, any food deserts and drinks will be welcome. If some one wants to attend but doesn't bring food, donations will be accepted and applied towards the end of year Christmas party. A sign-up sheet is available at the SO. Ya'll come!!



March Birthday's:

6th – Travis Baxley

7th – Belinda Licano

10th – Andria Loyd

11th – Annette Padilla

15th – Richard Taylor

17th – Robert River

18th – Christine Duarte

24th – Dennis Newman

27th – April Fogle

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

This and that:

Globe – Congratulations to Det. Johnny Homes, Jr., who was recently named "Deputy of the Year" by Pinal Mountain Elks Club. Deputy Terry Blevins is leaving Gila County for a new position. Kathy Johnson has been with Gila County for 10 years and Barbara Nancarrow for 5 years. Congratulations to both of them. It's good to see the Sheriff out and about again as he and Claudia Sue had a nasty bout with the flu recently. And everyone sends 'get well quick' wishes to Toni McEuen who is home suffering from a broken kneecap. We miss you Toni.

Roosevelt – Summer boating season is not far away. 2006 Boating Safety Education classes have been set up for Globe and Payson. Watch for the schedule in next month's newsletter. Anyone who owns a boat or is contemplating buying a boat, should consider taking this 8-hour course on

boating safety to learn what equipment is required as well as what to do in emergency situations or during in foul weather.

Payson – No response this month.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine

Safety Shares:



SNOW ON THE SAGLIAROS

Everyone thinks it doesn't snow in the desert. Well on occasion it snows very well thank you! Saturday, March 11th was just such a day. Payson got 31 inches of the 'white stuff', Globe had about a foot, Roosevelt/Tonto Basin got 8 inches and rumor has it Young got 4 foot. While the snow was beautiful to watch as it covered the landscape in a blanket of white, too many people wanted to get an up close and personal view. That resulted in many vehicles getting stuck and people getting stranded or lost. Gila County Search and Rescue and the Sheriff's Office spent several hours getting those subjects out of the mountains.



Now when the snow starts to melt, and it will, there may be some localized flooding. If you are out hiking or otherwise engaging in outdoor recreational activities, please be aware of your surroundings and that washes and streams may be carrying extra runoff.

