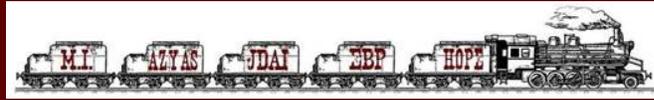


The Express



1st Quarter

March 2015



Dates to Remember:

- 2/1 Freedom Day
- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/16 Presidents Day
- 3/8 Time Changes
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 1st Day of Spring
- 4/1 April Fools' Day
- 4/5 Easter
- 4/15 Income Tax Day
- 4/22 Earth Day

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Jose Carranza Retires to an Assisted Living Facility

Bringing to an end his memorable 20-year career as a probation officer with the Yuma County Juvenile Court, Jose Carranza has moved on to his next big challenge.

After holding nearly every probation position within the department and being named Arizona's top probation officer in 2013, Jose will now direct his energies and people skills towards helping seniors to live safely in secure home environments.



Jose gives his farewell address

He will accomplish this by joining his wife, Lupita, in operating two Kindred Homes assisted living facilities in the Yuma area.

Jose said his goodbyes at a luncheon in the detention training room on January

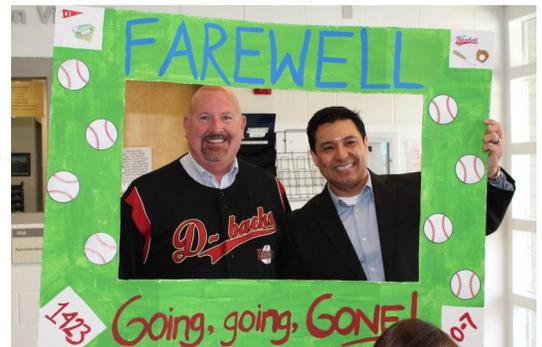
28, speaking to a standing room only crowd, which included many former colleagues who came to congratulate Jose on his accomplishment.

Following a memorable slide show put together by Edna Lugo, Jose talked on a familiar theme of his—that of his Juvenile Court family. Then, he threw in a light-hearted salute to Cesar Figueroa as "the uncle I never wanted."

Jose's former partner, Naaman Struck, who drove in from Los Angeles for the event, gave some hilarious insights into Jose's inner workings, including a story about his handcuffs and the "sounds of justice."

Director Tim Hardy described Jose's early years and his over-the-top reaction to having to rewrite his very first presentence report.

We weren't sure how true that story was until Judge Reeves described Jose's reac-



Tim Hardy and Jose Carranza

tion the first time that a recommendation of his was not followed in court, complete with a detailed demonstration of Jose's "dying cucaracha dance."

Lupita Carranza, Jose's wife, in an emotional address, verified that Jose can be just as difficult at home as he is at work.

Lupita also talked about how proud she is of her husband. Well, we are all proud of you Jose—proud to have worked with you and proud to call you our friend. You will be missed.



Lupita Carranza—Jose's new boss

Gun-Toting Woodard Teen Will Spend Lots of Time With Parents, His Probation Officer

VOICES FROM THE PAST

From the August 20, 1999 issue of the Yuma Daily Sun

A 13-year-old boy suspended from Woodard Junior High last spring for possession of a gun can look forward to home school and frequent contact with his probation officer.

Joel DeAnda has been at the side of his mother or father almost exclusively since May, when school officials found he was carrying a .25-caliber handgun. Thursday in Yuma County Juvenile Court, Judge John Nelson sentenced him to six months' probation.

However, he commended DeAnda's parents for the way they have handled the situation, saying he hoped they would be an example in any community. "Teaching young people right and wrong begins in the home," he said. "In fact, it ends in the home."

Yuma Elementary School District 1 allowed DeAnda to work to get his credit for the last school year away from the Woodard campus and suspended him for the 1999-2000 school year, according to Thursday's testimony.

DeAnda will begin on intensive probation, requiring at least four home visits a week with his

probation officer. He'll start with a noon curfew.

He will have to be accompanied by his parents if he's out later. The family will have to leave a note for the probation officer if they leave home. They will need consent to leave town.

The youth's attorney, William Michael Smith, had told the judge that the parents had demonstrated that they can handle the situation in a community where the court's resources are already strained.

"In a sense," Smith said, "they are imprisoned by the act of their son. They are asking to be allowed to do that."

"I'm really sorry," DeAnda told Nelson. "I'm sorry about what my parents have had to go through. I was really dumb."

He said he thought home schooling would be good because it would keep him from associating with people who get him in trouble.

Smith said there are conflicting stories about how DeAnda got the gun. He said the youth was asked to hold it by a friend who feared he would be searched. That same friend let the principal know that DeAnda was carrying the gun, Smith alleged.

Gloria DeAnda said she is hoping to get the materials soon to

provide five to seven hours a day of home schooling for her son, who has accompanied his parents to their work at the family business.

She told the judge that there are no guns at home. "There were never any guns around the house."

The friends her son had before the incident have come to their home and called, but she has to explain that they can't talk with him, she said.

"Really, it's a consequence," Mrs. DeAnda testified. "He doesn't consider having any more friends because he realizes the situation they got him into."

"He wants to do things," Raul DeAnda said of his son. "But, he has to pay for what he has done. We just basically wanted to get him out of that environment."

Nelson said that while no one was hurt in the incident, something tragic could have happened.

"We're all aware how devastating the guns-in-schools problem has become in this country," he said.

Employee Recognition Luncheon

The Juvenile Justice Center's annual Awards and Employee Recognition Luncheon was held at the Yuma First Assembly of God Church on January 30, 2015, with the meal catered by Da Boys Pizza & Pasta.



Molly Kelly, Rudy Acosta, Rose Hooker, Jolene Hefner, Grant Rader and Pauline Villa serving lunch

Director Tim Hardy was the master of ceremonies, with Juvenile Court Judges Mark Wayne Reeves and Kathryn Stocking-Tate officiating.



Judge Reeves, Tim Hardy and Judge Stocking-Tate present the awards

Employees are nominated by coworkers and supervisors for quarterly employee awards. The quarterly award places the recipient in the running for the yearly awards, which are voted upon by all staff.

The recipients of the awards for 2014 were:



Employee of the Year
Isaac Gonzalez
JIPS Surveillance Officer



Probation Officer of the Year
Rudy Acosta



Detention Officer the Year
Stephanie Buthmann

The director and deputy directors select the winner of the department and program of the year, while the director selects his own special achievement award. This year, for the first time, the supervisor of the year selection was opened up to the vote of the management team.



Supervisor of the Year
George Owens

Department of the Year:
Community Restitution



Mike Eslinger, Community Restitution Supervisor, receives award from Judge Reeves

Program of the Year: **Relay for Life** (Aztec High School)



Molly Kelly, Aztec Principal, talks about Relay for Life



Director's Special Achievement Award
Jose Avalos

Years of Service Pins

5 Years

Monte Preston
Silvia Teran

10 Years

Stacy Kroll
John Lawrence
Anet Solorzano
Carolina Zaragoza

15 Years

Ranee Arviso
Francisco Esquivel
Juan Linarez
Cynthia Lopez

20 Years

George Owens
Patti Pepper
Pauline Villa

HOPE Assessment Center Opens

Already one of the most innovative and forward thinking agencies in the State of Arizona, the Yuma County Juvenile Court authored a new chapter in juvenile justice services last November with the opening of the HOPE Assessment Center.

Designed to reduce the need for and use of secure detention, the center was originally intended to be an alternative for law enforcement agencies when secure detention was not available. But it quickly became clear that, just as importantly, the center was going to be a valuable resource for the community concerning youth-related issues and services.

While an assessment center had been on the department's wish list for years, the impetus for its development came in 2014, with the adoption of the national Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) initiative. JDAI called for moving low risk youth from secure detention placements to community-based alternative programs.

The first impact was to come from replacing the risk assessment instrument (RAI) currently being used to determine which children were eligible for secure detention

with a new JDAI-approved model. It was expected that this new instrument would dramatically reduce the number of children deemed appropriate for detention.

Since a huge impact of this change would be absorbed by the law enforcement community, the development of an assessment center was put on the fast track.

The intent was to set up a facility that could take custody from law enforcement of any child who was determined to not be eligible for secure detention. Open 24 hours a day, it was envisioned that the center would also take self referrals from children and families in need of information and/or services.

These children would be provided with immediate evaluation to determine the nature and extent of their needs in order to match that need with an appropriate and effective response. This could include a rapid referral for treatment services or expediting the court process, if necessary.

From the very beginning, the committee assigned to develop the center, enlisted the input and participation of various communi-



ty partners, including treatment agencies, the schools and law enforcement.

Since a new facility was out of the question, a detention pod was remodeled with new paint, carpeting and furniture. The door was opened to the outside and appropriate Kids at Hope signs were installed.

Grant Rader was assigned to supervise the staff and operations of the new facility. Two probation officers were assigned—Rudy Acosta from Aztec High School and Martin Reyes from Drug Court. Staff was rounded out with the assignment of detention officers Beatriz Felix, Gabriela Lachica, Zachary Harrison and Jose Hernandez.

The HOPE Assessment Center opened its doors for business on November 10, 2014, once again changing the way we do provide services to the community.

Aging to Perfection

Amy Fisher	Feb 2	Isaac Gonzalez	Mar 4	Africa Carrasco	Mar 18
Tim Hardy	Feb 7	Frankie Esquivel	Mar 11	Patricia Hernandez	Mar 18
Steven Goetz	Feb 10	Monica Calderon	Mar 12	Vijay Mohindra	Mar 24
Leo Mendez	Feb 13	Stacy Davidson	Mar 12	Susan Taylor	Mar 27
Cesar Figueroa	Feb 18			Elizabeth Acosta	Mar 31
Leticia Thrush	Feb 18			Stephanie Buthmann	Apr 11
Brenda Lopez	Feb 19			Christina Charles	Apr 14
Lenny Longoria	Feb 20			George Owens	Apr 19
Autumn Ferguson	Feb 23			Sam Watson	Apr 20
Jose Federico	Feb 28			Maria Martinez	Apr 26
Nicholas Herrera	Mar 1			Jorge Nunez	Apr 30



New Hires



Brenda Lopez
Detention Officer Trainee
October 20



Sayra Ocegüera
Receptionist/Clerk
October 20



Faye Burson
Volunteer
November 5



Ruben Esparza
Detention Officer I
November 24



Jesus Garcia
Detention Officer I
November 24



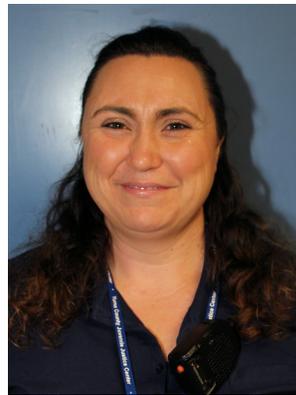
Theresa Figmaka
Detention Officer Trainee
December 9



Diana Sanchez
Courtroom Clerk I
December 15



Johanna Lavarias
Receptionist/Clerk
January 5



Lisa Luchtman
Detention Officer I
January 26

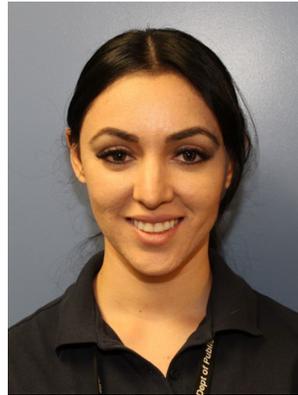


Belinda Gill
Courtroom Clerk I
February 2

Promotions/Transfers



Ismael Garcia
Detention Officer II
November 9



Liza Lucero
Detention Officer II
November 9



Lenny Longoria
Detention Officer II
March 1

Aztec High School Graduation

Aztec High School, midway through its 19th school year, has sent another group of distinguished graduates onto the road to success.

The fall commencement ceremony, complete with 18 graduates, took place on December 16, 2014 at the Yuma County Main Library to a full complement of teachers, court staff, parents and friends.

Receiving the Principal's Award was Julian Santos, who graduated a semester early while being dually enrolled at Arizona Western College.

The Counselor's Award went to Sergio Ortega, who was preparing to go into the Job Corps. In addition, five of the graduates enrolled at AWC for the spring semester.

In a very emotional address, Marlena Jimenez described her experiences as a graduate from both Aztec High and the court's Strategies for Success Program.

And, as has become a tradition, the Aztec yearbook class presented its Senior Farewell slideshow.

Diplomas and awards were given out



Aztec High School Class of 2014 (Fall Semester)

by Superintendent Tim D. Hardy and Principal Molly Kelly, along with special guests, Juvenile Court Judges Mark Wayne Reeves and Kathryn Stocking-Tate.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 (Fall Semester):

Miguel Aguilar, Andres Angulo, Vale-

ria Casillas, Merardo Cebrenos, Paulina Celaya, Oscar Colosio, Barry Comet, Gordon Coyote, Robert de la Hoya, Martha Estrada, Marlena Jimenez, Jazmin Martinez, Ricardo Olea, Yesenia Orozco, Sergio Ortega, Jonathan Pagan, Xochillit Phillips, Jesus Rivera, Austin Sanchez, Faviola Sandoval, Julian Santos and Brandon Wood.

Fourth Quarter Awards



Isaac was

Isaac Gonzalez

**Surveillance Officer
Intensive Probation
Employee of the Quarter**

nominated by a co-worker for one simple reason; he is a great team player who is always willing to assist other officers with their field contacts.

Isaac makes sure that all case-loads are covered when he knows that a fellow surveillance officer is out of the office for a period of time. He supervises the juveniles as if they were on his own case-load.

Isaac makes quality contacts and he makes them count. He carries himself in a professional manner and is very respectful and helpful with the families with whom he makes contact. Isaac goes above and beyond the call of duty to help a coworker or a client.

Isaac's quality of work exceeds expectations and he has great people skills with the clients we serve, as well as his coworkers. He has good initiative, high integrity and displays great teamwork,



Mike Hankins

**Detention Officer
of the Quarter**

Mike has been with the Yuma County Juvenile Detention Center since March of 2000. He has worked all of the different shifts and is very familiar with his duties and responsibilities. Mike is relatively quiet most of the time, but when he sets his sights on something, he will go after it.

Mike took an interest in the street gangs and taggings that have been plaguing our community and created a database on the different gang members who have entered out detention facility, routinely passing this information on to his coworkers. Mike recently painted over some of the gang graffiti in detention, while adding the information to his database.

Mike brings a positive attitude to his job and to the daily the briefings, which helps to raise the morale of his coworkers. He has also taken the time to establish professional working relationships with many of the detainees.



Rudy Acosta

**Probation Officer
of the Quarter**

During the past few months, Rudy has gone far above and beyond to help his coworkers. He led a team of staff from detention and probation that renovated Detention Pod A to create the Hope Assessment Center.

This included painting, laying flooring, building a wall, and setting up the lobby to make the entire pod "kid friendly," saving the thousands of dollars and enabling staff to take ownership of the new center.

During the community outreach of the Hope Assessment Center, Rudy participated in numerous presentations on the services the center would be providing.

Rudy demonstrates a strong work ethic and is forward thinking, traits which he models to both junior and senior staff. He believes that anything can be accomplished if you work hard and stay motivated.

The staff of The Blog is looking for your suggestions on ways to improve the content of the newsletter, as well as ideas for upcoming issues. If you have any ideas or would like to submit a story, contact Leo Mendez at lmendez@courts.az.gov or Ben Rowe at browe@courts.az.gov, or any member of the newsletter committee.

