



The Express



Third Quarter

October 2016

Dates to Remember:

- 9/5 Labor Day
- 9/11 Patriot Day
- 9/11 Grandparent Day
- 9/22 Autumn Equinox
- 10/10 Columbus Day
- 10/17 Boss's Day
- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/6 Daylight Savings Ends
- 11/8 Election Day
- 11/10 USMC Birthday
- 11/11 Veterans Day
- 11/24 Thanksgiving

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Melanie Richardson Begins Writing the Next Chapter

By: Henry Gonzalez

On July 29, 2016, the Yuma County Juvenile Court celebrated the retirement of Melanie Richardson, call sign 1409. Melanie was hired as a probation officer on September 16, 2002.

Melanie served in a variety of capacities throughout the years, including Standard Probation and Drug Court. She was also a facilitator for Parent Orientation and the Girls Empowerment meeting (GEM). And, she was always in costume for the entertainment of the children on National Adoption Day.

Melanie was a member of several committees, the most recent being part of the Kids at Hope committee. As part of this, she took the lead in a workgroup to develop a Successful Parenting, providing classes to probation and foster families.



Melanie receives her badge and plaque from Tim Hardy

Her valuable insight and perspectives will be sorely missed.

There were plenty of good food and laughs that were shared at Melanie's retirement luncheon on July 29, 2016. After a pot-luck lunch, a slide show was played with pictures and

memories of Melanie throughout the years.

Although Melanie was known as being dedicated and committed to her work, she also had a lighter side that will be remembered by all of those officers who had the pleasure of working with her.



Melanie shows off her plaque and going away basket

Memories were shared with those in attendance, including the story of how Melanie received the nickname "Baby-girl." Folks also heard the infamous summertime M&M story, along with the story of her interpreting skills working with Major Willis.

Melanie left a lasting impression on her coworkers that will be remembered throughout the years. Although she closed this chapter in her life, she will now write a new chapter as she focuses her attention on her family and grandchildren.

Yuma Officials Push Campaign to Stop Petty Juvenile Crimes

From the March 8, 1964 issue of the Yuma Daily Sun

By Pete Brown

Sensational, banner headline crimes become the objects of most public concern today, but it is small, recurring crimes involving vandalism and senseless petty theft that have the potential to cause the most serious damage to the moral fibre of a community.

Daily, the Yuma Police Department and the Yuma County Sheriff's Department investigate a steady, nagging, almost predictable number of minor crimes. The thefts and instances of vandalism are usually minor, involving less than \$100. Unfortunately, law enforcement officials have only meager success in curtailing and preventing the crimes which are almost always committed in the dark of night. A rash of such crimes rarely occurs.

In spite of the fact that Yuma County possesses one of the lowest rates of juvenile crime in the state, Police statistics for the year of 1963 are disturbing. Caseworkers within the Police Department handled 1,162 individual juvenile cases last year, referring 225 to Juvenile Court and the Probation Department. Occurrences of vandalism and petty theft and the damages caused by the crimes during the past year are considerable. A large portion of the crimes are the result of juvenile actions.

The City Police alone handled 455 cases of senseless, destructive vandalism resulting in a damage loss of \$4,795. Only \$330 was recovered. Arrests totaled six. Police officials indicated that the cases of petty

theft involving juveniles also constituted a sizeable problem.

Discussing the reasons behind the commission of the crimes, Cochran, Police Chief Robert Mabery, probation officer James Daly and other officials agree on several points. They are in accord that most of the crimes lack malice and are usually executed on the spur of the moment for "kicks." The officials also indicate that this fact is more harmful to the basic moral codes of the future citizens.

James Daly, general probation officer, who also handles the juvenile cases, states that the juvenile vandalism problem in Yuma can be summed up in several statements, but assents that it will take a concentrated program to improve the situation. "It is important to remember," Daly said, "that Yuma County has a very low rate of juvenile delinquency." Adding to the problem is the fact that the good kids, some 97 percent, never get in the news.

The juvenile case officer listed drinking, lack of proper control in the home, and abundance of free time and school dropouts as major contributing factors.

Daly also pointed out that the vast majority of juvenile crimes were not vicious, and that the crimes and careless destruction was usually part of the search by the teenager for something different, for the thrill of a new experience.

Realizing that there is no sure, definable solution to the juvenile vandalism situation, Yuma city and county officials have concerned themselves with developing a long range program involving a variety of departments and officials.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

Steady work at achieving an enforceable, practical curfew hour was begun nearly a year ago by City Councilman Charles Cochran, who believes that a curfew would be of major value in curtailing juvenile vandalism and crime. Cochran feels that results of concerted effort have already started to pay off for the curfew enforcement program. "For the first time," Cochran noted, "parents are contacting the police, asking them to pick up youngsters who are out at unusual hours."

The juvenile crime prevention program, which is fairly new, having been first established two years ago, involves a juvenile officer, case workers, a juvenile judge, William W. Nabours, and is centered on a program of aid, counseling and prevention.

Working in close cooperation with the Yuma Union High School District officials, the members of the Police Department and others administering the program are attempting to build through counseling to achieve a sense of responsibility in the juvenile.

Counseling is provided on all levels from the investigating officer to officials in the Yuma County Juvenile Home.

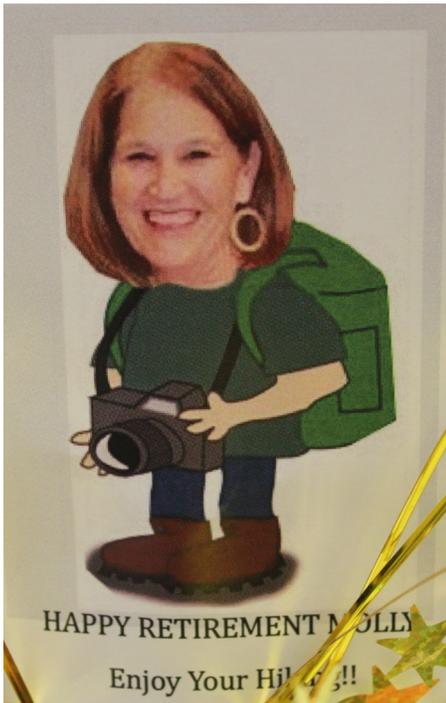
In summation, city and county officials seem to agree that it is the attitude that needs to change, Not only the attitudes of the child but the outlook of the parents and all citizens in close contact with children that are in a position to correct any problem .

Whatever the causes and justifications of a juvenile problem, there is always room for understanding combined with rational discipline and supplemented by a program of counseling and recreation.

Molly Kelly Leaves a Huge Legacy at Aztec High School

By: Steve Pallack

Molly Kelly retired from Aztec High School at the end of June. Mollyanna, as she is known to many of her friends, because of her always rosy outlook on life, had been the Principal at Aztec for 6 years. This was the culmination of a long career in Education, the last 22 as a High School Administrator.



Molly started her career in Education back in the 1980's, teaching in the Metropolitan Phoenix area. In 1994, Molly interviewed for and was offered a job as the Assistant Principal at her alma mater, Kofa High School. Having grown up in the Yuma area, and being a former Homecoming Queen at Kofa, this was a dream come true.

Molly started out in the Activities Office for her first couple years, then moved to the Academic Office. She helped guide Kofa into the new age of student tracking and data acquisition while in that position.

In the fall of 2004, Molly was told by the Superintendent that at the semester she would be moving to Cibola. So a new chapter began. Molly was an Assistant Principal at Cibola High School for a few years,

working again, as the AP in charge of Activities, before a new opportunity beckoned. Vista High School was looking for a new Principal.

Molly took the reins at Vista and helped improve the quality of instruction over the next 5 years. This offered her a great deal of experience in Alternative Education which would be a tremendous benefit in the future. In 2010, she retired from the YUHSD.

But Molly was not done with Education. Later that same year, Aztec was looking for a new Principal to take on the job of gaining accreditation. Molly parlayed her experience at Vista into the start of a new phase in her life, Principal of Aztec High School.

During her time at Aztec, Molly had many accomplishments. She did help Aztec acquire accreditation, a huge plus for the school. She helped to increase the enrollment and the quality of the education provided.

Molly was actively involved in getting the students involved in the Relay for Life campaign. Under her leadership, Aztec each year raises more money than the rest of the local high schools combined. She has helped improve the quality of education in Detention. Molly also has been instrumental in helping to



Molly receives her retirement clock from Tim Hardy

spread the Kids at Hope philosophy at Aztec.

Since leaving Aztec, Molly has moved up to the Valley to be closer to grandkids and her children.



New Principal Steve Pallack, Molly Kelly and Director Tim Hardy

Aztec High School Opens for Its 21st Year of Excellence in Education

By: Steve Pallack



Aztec High School is pleased to be starting the 21st year of trying to provide a quality education for the youth of our community. While the mission has not changed, many of the faces have. For the first time in six years, we have a new principal. Steve Pallack has

taken the helm at Aztec after the retirement of Molly Kelly.

Other new faces include Karen Ridgers, a long time Yuma area educator, in the Math Department; Fran Rodriguez is the new Assistant Principal, also with many years of experience at the high school level.

Coming on board soon, our new Counselor, Tori Bourguignon. She will be replacing Brenda Smith who left for Yuma High. Tori has a great deal of experience not only as a High School Counselor, but in dealing with crisis situations and at-risk youth.

Aztec is stepping up the commitment to the Kids at Hope philosophy this year. In addition to the four regular classes each student will have, we

have a "Kids at Hope" class. This will increase the opportunities to have students develop a vision of their future and create a road map to achieve the successes we all know are possible.

And finally, Aztec is getting ready to kick off the Relay for Life fundraising season. Aztec is proud of the fact that the school is annually raising more money than the other high schools combined. Go Warriors!



Judges Mark Wayne Reeves and Maria Elena Cruz with Principal Steve Pallack welcoming students

Aging to Perfection

Lisa Klauck Sept. 2
Cristine Vassar Sept. 6
Stocking-Tate, Kathryn Sept. 9
Veronica Davis Sept. 21
Mike Eslinger Sept. 22
Luis Torres Sept. 27
Katarina Olea Sept. 28
Juan Rodriguez Sept. 29
Annette Steinberg Oct. 2
Sayra Ocegueda Oct. 4
Beatriz Felix Oct. 5
Arturo Caro Oct. 7
Ignacio Galindo Oct. 9
Jose Hernandez Oct. 9

Michael Bell Oct. 11
Orlando Cuen Oct. 12
Carolina Zaragoza Oct. 12
Rose Hooker Oct. 14
Mike Hankins Oct. 15
Kenton Stevens Oct. 21
Guillermo Gatón Oct. 22
Lisa Schaefer Oct. 26

Daniel Ornelas Oct. 27
Ben Rowe Nov. 2
Henry Cabrera Nov. 7
Jose Moreno Nov. 8
Henry Gonzalez Nov. 9
Michelle McCall Nov. 10
Emerson Greason Nov. 12
Ignacio Trejo Nov. 12
Ruben Esparza Nov. 13
Emmie Roman Nov. 15
Liliana Lugo Nov. 18
Rudy Acosta Nov. 20
Cecilia Andrade Nov. 22
Sarah Jaramillo Nov. 22
Rafael Garcia Nov. 25



Just the Facts - Did You Know That . . . ?

- ◇ During June of 2016, Drug Court participants participated in a life skills summer program run by the Drug Court surveillance officer. The group met twice a week and had numerous guest speakers from the community come and speak to them on topics to include: grief and loss, self esteem, teen dating violence, anger management, healthy lifestyles and wellness, resume writing and success for teens.
- ◇ On June 9 and 10, a group of court employees and community stakeholder's attended the Kids at HOPE Module IV presentation on the *transformational journey*, presented by the CEO Rick Miller.
- ◇ On June 10, the Drug Court team and participants went on a tour of the Yuma Territorial Prison. This event was a great success and the youth had a great learning experience. After the tour, participants were taken to Lute's Casino, one of the oldest restaurants in Yuma, located in the heart of Historic Downtown Yuma.
- ◇ On June 12, the Drug Court team took 12 participants to an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game in Phoenix. The Honorable Judge Mark Wayne Reeves attended the game with the youth, which was truly a memorable event for many of the youth who had never even been out of town before.
- ◇ On June 13, the Drug Court participants attended a workshop with Yuma's *Work Initiative Act (WIA)*. The youth were made aware of the employment services WIA has to offer and were given a class on employability skills.
- ◇ On June 15, probation staff took a total of 20 juveniles on standard and intensive probation to an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game in Phoenix.
- ◇ On June 20, staff of the juvenile court began attending a monthly Leadership Meeting on Justice Involved Children, sponsored by Cenpatico, the regional behavioral health authority.
- ◇ The Juvenile Court co-sponsored a weeklong series of events and a recognition luncheon for adult and juvenile probation officers and other court staff during the National Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers Week, July 17-23.
- ◇ On July 23, the Yuma Juvenile County Juvenile Court participated in the Fourth Annual Back to School Rodeo event at the Yuma Civic Center, which was hosted by the City of Yuma. The court and probation department were among 80 community partners - all under one roof - supporting education and providing school supplies to help prepare kids for school.
- ◇ On August 12, staff of the Juvenile Court participated in an active shooter drill, which was put on by the department's emergency response team.
- ◇ On September 22, Yuma County Juvenile Court's supervisor, line officer, detention officer, and employee of the year were recognized as nominees for the state awards at the annual Arizona Probation Employee Recognition Day held at the East Valley Institute of Technology in Mesa, Arizona. Twenty-four employees of the Juvenile Court made the trip to recognize their fellow staff members.
- ◇ On October 21, the Juvenile Court will be hosting the Kids at Hope National Board of Directors Meeting. A planning committee has been meeting in preparation for this event.
- ◇ On October 31, staff of the juvenile court, along with local area law enforcement and local businesses, will participate in a Scary & Safe Halloween event at the Yuma Territorial Prison. Last year's event had over 2,500 youth in attendance.
- ◇ On November 19, the Juvenile Court will conduct its Yuma County National Adoption day, with judges Mark Wayne Reeves and Kathryn Stocking-Tate presiding.

New Detention Academy Has Its First Graduating Class

By: Arturo Caro

In recent years, the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center has been sending our Detention Officers to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Detention Officer Basic Training Academy to receive training in the areas of Ethics, Inmate Control, Restraints, Use of Force and Self-Defense. Due to limited space and staffing, the Sheriff's Office was not able to accommodate the number of staff the Juvenile Justice Center was attempting to send for basic training. A solution for our staff to be properly trained had to be created. With the assistance of Deputy Director Jolene Hefner; Detention Supervisors Grant Rader and David Sherman; and Detention Officer III Steven Banuelos, a solution was set in place.

The Juvenile Justice Center and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) require detention officers to complete six weeks in basic training prior to a detention officer working with a detained juvenile. As a new hire, our detention officers were required to attend a six week training academy at the Yuma County Sheriff's Office and successfully graduate, passing all requirements.

This past June, the very first Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center

- Detention Officer Extended Field Training Academy was implemented. The academy consisted of a 40 hour training course in the fields of Adolescent Brain, Behavior Management, Boundaries and Relationships, DSI, Handle with Care, Disaster Hazards, Kids at Hope, PREA, Report Writing, Searches, Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Use of Force and Legal Liability.

The FTO (Field Training Officer) Program is a training cycle that consist of four phases and six weeks of intense on the job training and daily performance evaluations. Phase I is the orientation phase, Phase II is the day shift phase, Phase III is the afternoon phase and Phase IV is the night shift phase.

Each new officer is evaluated daily on appearance, attitude, knowledge, accuracy/completeness, report writing, use of common sense, investigative procedures and relationship with staff and detainee. With the ex-



tended field training academy the new hire officer will no longer have to complete the YCSO academy and be ready to oversee and run a direct supervision pod.

Our new hires that attended the first academy were Josephat Briones, Alexander Castillo, Orlando Cuen, Rosalba Gomez, Mario Guerrero, Evander Johnson, Maria Perez, Claudia Rivas and Ignacio Trejo.

Class instructors were Supervisors Grant Rader, David Sherman and Lisa Klauck; Detention Officer III's Steven Banuelos, Stephanie Buthmann, Charlie Santa Cruz and Arturo Caro; Detention Officer II Steven Goetz, Detention Officer Lisa Luchtman; and Karen Hamby.

Numbers That Matter

By: Jennifer Rader

	Probation Fees Collected			Restitution Collected		
	May	June	July	May	June	July
Standard	\$ 4,265.00	\$ 3,799.00	\$ 3,909.00	\$ 1,326.00	\$ 421.09	\$ 136.00
JIPS	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,147.00	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
Diversion	\$ 2,180.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 10.83	\$ 180.00	\$ 49.76
Collections	\$ 4,454.26	\$ 4,131.26	\$ 345.37	\$ 3,429.31	\$ 949.14	\$ 0.00
Off Probation	\$ 425.00	\$ 1,385.00	\$ 942.00	\$ 355.00	\$ 236.52	\$ 37.32
Total	\$14,174.26	\$13,432.26	\$ 7,771.37	\$5,886.14	\$2,036.75	\$ 523.08

New Hires



Emerson Greason
Detention Officer I
June 23



Miguel Saldana
Probation Aide
July 11



Francesca "Fran" Rodriguez
Assistant Principal
Aztec High School
July 18



Diana Lupercio
Volunteer
August 10



Tori Bourginon
Counselor
Aztec High School
August 29

Promotions / Transfers



Sayra Ocegüera
Courtroom Clerk I
August 22

Second Quarter Awards



Stephanie Gonzalez

**Courtroom Clerk I
Employee of the Quarter**

A supervisor commented, "Stephanie was recently asked to assist in the preparation of Success Court. She accepted this assignment in a very professional manner and immediately took full ownership. Stephanie quickly developed a file and minute entry template for this program. She also entered pertinent JOLTSaz data in order to update the court calendar and clerked over the first Success Court program.

Stephanie is an awesome team player. She is always willing to assist anyone at any time and her efforts are very much appreciated by everyone in the Clerk's and Probation departments.

Stephanie strongly supports the initiatives of the Juvenile Court, and is always willing to be part of anything new that is being developed. She is a highly resourceful court clerk and very valuable to this department. I wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to tell her that I appreciate everything that she does for the Clerk's Department".



Lisa Luchtman

**Detention Officer
of the Quarter**

A fellow employee commented, "This nomination is based on more than just the quarter, but from the moment this officer started. She is always willing to lend a hand when she could just as easily ignore the situation and nobody would be the wiser.

She exemplifies hard work, motivating others to do the same by example. She always greets everyone with a smile and treats co-workers and juveniles with respect. She takes the initiative to revise and make improvements to existing policies and goes above and beyond when helping juveniles on a one-on-one basis. She is overall an example to follow".



Edna Lugo

**Probation Officer
of the Quarter**

A fellow employee commented, "Edna has embraced the concept of Treasure Hunter and as a JIPS officer, has been eager to learn and take on more responsibilities. Her integrity, communication and teamwork have made other people's jobs and responsibility so much easier".

Her supervisor commented, "Edna has taken a very important role within the Probation Department as the Sex-Trafficking Liaison Specialist. Within her scope, she has worked very closely with community law enforcement agencies. Edna was able to identify two females as victims of sex-trafficking, and has played a big role in keeping them safe. She states that she has found her calling—in helping victims of sex-trafficking.

Edna shows great initiative and does not require a lot of direction, as she is self-disciplined and motivated. Edna always looks for the well-being of the youth who she supervises as well as that of the community.

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.

