

## Dear Santa ... Page 9

## OBITUARIES

# Thelma Marie Layne

Thelma Marie Layne, age 92, passed away November 30 in the comfort of her home. She was born August 13, 1922 to Clarke and Marie MacConnell of Dowagiac, Michigan. Following her graduation, Thelma was a telephone operator for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. She met and wed Glen Layne during his recovery at the Percy Jones Army Hospital. Their two week "engagement" and marriage resulted in two children: Sam (Janice) Layne and Suze (Daniel) Stevenson; and, two grandsons: Austin (Tauni) Layne and Ethan Glen Stevenson.

Thelma's happiest years were spent alongside her husband, surrounded by family and friends, in the small

town atmosphere of Superior. Sewing, baking and reading were among her favorite hobbies. She was often seen walking into town to peruse the pattern section of Sprouse Heitz or sharing recipes at the Superior Public Library.

Thelma's most rewarding hours, however, were spent in the bible educational work as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, sharing uplifting scriptures with others, attesting to the wonderful blessings God's heavenly Kingdom will bring to this earth. Among her favorites were Isaiah 33:24 : "and no resident will say: "I am sick..." and John 5:28, 29 " .. the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice 28 and come out .."

Ironically, those same scriptures would prove to be a source of comfort and strength, personally needed by



Thelma to face the loss of her longtime spouse and the daily changes associated with Alzheimer's.

In behalf of Thelma, we extend our open invitation to her services at the local Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, located at 639 Hill Street., on Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow.

# Fred D. Palacio

Fred D. Palacio, 87, born February 1927, died Nov. 27, 2014. Born in Clemenceau (near Jerome), Ariz. to Petra and Emilio Palacio. Fred is survived by his wife, Mary

Louise Palacio to whom he was married for 67 years, and who cared for him all his life until he joined God in Heaven. Survived by son Fred Gene (wife Carmen), Don (wife Cindy), and daughter Diane (husband Ernie) who graced him with seven grand children and seven great-grand children.

Loved by siblings, Isabel, Rosalie, and Pete. Adored by many loving nieces and nephews. Fred and Mary Palacio raised their family in Superior, where Fred retired from the Magma Copper Company as an underground miner in 1975. And later retired from the Pinal County highway department after 13 years of driving heavy equipment.

Fred was truly a man that stood above all others because of his integrity, dignity, and humility. He was a strong man with a kind and tender heart. He was the product of a hard life and always put others ahead of himself. He had no idea how many people loved him and how much he shall be missed by all whose lives he touched in the town of Superior.

Rosary, Services and Burial to be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 at 10 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Superior, Ariz.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions be made to Hospice of the Valley in Fred's name. 480-730-5980 or www.hov.org.

View the online guestbook at www.SuperiorFuneral.com.



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Published each Wednesday in Superior, Arizona by Copper Area News Publishers. Subscription rates in advance: \$35.50 per year or \$31.50 for 6 months in Pinal County; \$40.50 per year or \$36.50 for 6 months elsewhere in the U.S. Change of address should be sent to the publishers at P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85137.

Member: Arizona Newspaper Association,  
National Newspaper Association.

Second class postage is paid at Superior, Arizona. Postmaster: Address changes to *The Superior Sun*, P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85137.

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Fax (520) 363-9663

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—David Brinkley



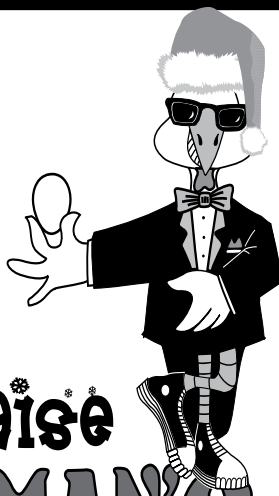
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# Gila County nearing completion of measures to tighten security of court facilities

By James J. Hodl  
Copper Area News

If it takes a little longer to gain entrance to the Gila County Courthouse in Globe, it is part of an effort to improve security of the facility and ensure the safety of visitors. In fact there should be little inconvenience unless carrying into the

building inappropriate items from firearms to drug paraphernalia.

"Sadly in the times we live, even rural communities like those in Gila County are not immune to threats from criminals and disturbed individuals. Life-threatening incidents involving firearms and other weapons inside of court buildings is no longer a worry just in big cities," said

Jacque Griffin, Gila County assistant manager.

"To assure that such threats don't lead to an unhappy reality in Gila County, we have taken steps to assure the safety of people visiting our court facilities," she added.

Although no security incidents have yet occurred, Presiding Gila County Superior Court Judge Peter J. Cahill and County

Manager Don E. McDaniel Jr. decided to not wait. Meeting in January 2011 to discuss security issues for court facilities in Globe and Payson, they decided to appoint a nine member task force comprised of employees from the court, sheriff, public works, recorder and treasurer's departments and the county risk manager

Continued on page 10

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## New generation of underground miners set records at Superior

By Mila Besich-Lira  
Copper Area News

At the end of November history was made in Superior, a new chapter was completed at the Resolution Copper project and some of the main history makers are lifetime residents of Superior.

These lifetimes are short in comparison to other history makers; they are young men, who took a chance on a career that when it all started they knew nothing about mining with the exception of stories that were told by their parents and

grandparents.

Just days after the final blast for the number ten shaft the *Superior Sun*, had the opportunity to meet with some of the senior staff and young miners who built the shaft which at this time is the deepest single lift shaft in America. These miners worked six days a weeks, 10.5 hours days. These crews worked 1.52 million man hours over the course of eight years. They excavated 475,000 tons of rock, poured 50,000 cubic yards of concrete and installed 13 miles of pipe to complete this project. As they blasted deeper into

the final destination the temperatures rose higher than expected and they had to slow their pace while a new cooling system was installed. That was only one of the challenges they faced; today they say that sometimes it gets a little cold underground.

Tom Goodell, manager of Underground Development for Resolution Copper has worked on many shaft building projects for the mining industry as well as the government in America, Turkey and Canada; he was well suited to take on this project for Rio Tinto. He credits the success of the project to the crews that worked underground. "We hired local workers and trained them how to the job safely. They were a breath of fresh air and are the best crew I have ever seen," he said. He emphasized that they were able to teach this new generation of miners how to do the job safely and efficiently.

Randy Seppala, the project manager for shaft development at Resolution Copper, is a returning miner to the area. Seppala worked at Magma Copper when the number nine shaft was completed; after the shut down in 1982 he had to find work at other mines but eventually he found his way back to the area and began consulting along with Goodell on the Resolution Copper project.

"When we came back to the project in 2006, there was nothing here but weeds and stray cats," he explained.



Carlos Martinez Jr. and Matthew Rabago are part of the new generation of underground hard rock miners at Superior's Resolution Copper Project.

Mila Besich-Lira | Superior Sun

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# Holiday boutique, cornhole tournament

By Mila Besich-Lira  
Superior Sun

Saturday, Dec. 6 kicks off the Christmas Holiday season in Superior with a holiday boutique, cornhole tournament

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and of course the main event, the Miracle on Main St. Light parade and festival.

Marilee Lasch owner of Day Star Studios is hosting a holiday boutique at 200 N. Magma from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The boutique will feature many holiday gifts made by local artists and crafters. There will be light refreshments provided during the boutique. If you are continuing your holiday shopping on Saturday, the Copper Gecko will also be having a tax free sale on Saturday.

There will be a cornhole tournament to benefit the Superior Food Bank, registrations will begin at noon.

Registration will be \$5 per person and 5 cans of food or \$10 per person. The tournament is going to be held in the lot next to Felicia's Ice Cream shop. There will be food and raffles during this event. For more information on the tournament or to pre-register call Angela Villaverde at 520-827-9450, Sonia Estatico at 520-827-9771 or Rosemary Quiroz at 520-827-9421.

The Superior Optimist Club has been hard at work

## Superior Fire Department to sponsor Angel Tree and toy drive

By Mila Besich-Lira  
Superior Sun

This year the Superior Fire Department along with the Red Bear Outfitters are sponsoring an Angel Tree to help many families that may not be able to afford a Christmas provide gifts for their children.

The two organizations are

looking for local residents to adopt these angels off the tree and purchase gifts from their wish card. The angels can be picked up anytime at the Superior Fire Department located at 236 Golf Course Road. The gifts will need to be returned by Dec. 17, 2014 in order to allow time for wrapping and delivering to the families. If your family is in need of some assistance with gifts for your children, families can register until Dec. 10, 2014.

The fire department will also be continuing its annual Christmas Eve gift giving with Santa on the Fire Truck. The department is accepting financial contributions or donations of small toys for that give away. Santa will be driven up and down every street in Superior to ensure that every child in Superior that night gets a gift. The department also invites everyone to come and help wrap all these gifts for the children.

For more information or to assist with these holiday activities contact the Superior Fire Department at 520-689-5671.

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# and parade to kick off Holiday Season

preparing for the 11th annual Miracle on Main St. event. The afternoon kicks off with the food and game booths that will open at 4 p.m. on Main Street along with free train rides by Desert Express Train. The light parade will line up at 5:30 p.m. at the Kennedy School. Those participating in the parade should arrive at the school no later than 6 p.m. to ensure that the entry will be judged. The parade will leave the school at 6:30 p.m. and it is

expected to begin on Main Street at 7 p.m. Immediately following the parade, Santa will visit with children in the Besich park Gazebo. The Optimist Club would like to invite everyone to visit the park and see the new lighting at the park which has been installed through generous donations from Resolution Copper and many other local businesses and organizations. Those wishing to enter a float in the parade or wanting more information should

contact JoAnn Besich at 520-827-0592 or Mila Besich-Lira 520-827-0676.

## Blanket, sock and jacket drive to be held this weekend

*"Sir – Professor Dumbledore? Can I ask you something?"*

*"Obviously, you've just done so," Dumbledore smiled.*

*"You may ask me one more thing, however."*

*"What do you see when you look in the mirror?"*

*"I? I see myself holding a pair of thick, woolen socks." Harry stared.*

*"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore.*

While we know that this isn't Hogwarts, it is still very important to have warm socks. And blankets. And jackets.

There will be a sock, blanket and jacket drive this weekend during the Miracle on Main Street event. April Lira will be staffing a booth at the food court where they

will be accepting new and gently used socks, blankets and jackets. The items will be distributed through the Superior Food Bank during the winter season. Weather forecasters are predicting a very cold and wet winter season, any donation is greatly appreciated.

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# SPORTS

## Longoria leads Panthers to season opening win

By Andrew Luberdia  
Superior Sun

Senior Ricky Longoria led four Panthers in double figures scoring, finishing with 26 points in Superior's 68 – 56 season opening victory at Globe

last week. Edgar Pacheco (15), Matthew Zavala (12), and freshman Marcos Bueno (10) were the other Panthers' players to score 10 points or more against the Tigers.

The Panthers led at the end of the first quarter, 13 – 11, and never trailed the rest of the game, outscoring

the Tigers in three of the game's four quarters.

After a game at Miami on Dec. 1, the Panthers will play Gilbert Classical Academy before finally playing their home opener on Dec. 9 when they host the San Manuel Miners.

Both upcoming games are scheduled for 7 p.m.

## Lady Panthers fall to Vandals in season opener

By Andrew Luberdia  
Superior Sun

Superior's Ariana San Miguel scored a team-high 15 points against Miami last week, but it wasn't enough as

the Vandals defeated the Lady Panthers in the season opener for both teams, 34 – 29.

Senior Cierra Navarrette and sophomore Maribel Castro led the Lady Panthers with six rebounds each.

San Miguel was 3-for-5 from three-point range in the game.

Superior will take on Morenci this Friday at 12:15 p.m.

## SUPERIOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Presbyterian Church of Superior

100 Magma Ave., Superior  
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### Superior Harvest Church

Hill St. & Stone Ave., Superior  
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Sunday Morning Service 10 a.m.  
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### Family Life Christian Center

56 Kellner Ave., Superior  
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Sunday Prayer 9:30 a.m.  
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### Superstition Foothills Baptist Church

6338 S. Kings Ranch Rd.  
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## Arboretum: Art in the Garden

Ever thought of using dinner plates as an artistic accent in your garden or bicycle wheels? December

6 the Superstition Master Gardeners present an "Art in the Garden" slideshow and indoor workshop

demonstrating how common everyday articles can become art in a garden setting.

Learn how a little imagination can transform a garden from mundane to extraordinary. No formal art training necessary, just bring your imagination, and be inspired by ceramics,

metal, stone, outdoor paintings and mosaics. Pinal County's Superstition Mountain Master Gardeners Art In The Garden workshop starts at 11a.m. Saturday at Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA). No pre-registration required, and no additional fee or enrollment. Their presentations at BTA are included with daily Arboretum admission of \$10.

Learn about other Arboretum guided tours and events at [ag.arizona.edu/bta](http://ag.arizona.edu/bta); For more information about the local Master Gardeners group, their classes and volunteer work, call Carol at 602-438-4003 or email [caparrott21@hotmail.com](mailto:caparrott21@hotmail.com).

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### Weather

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Nov 26	77	36	
Nov 27	85	49	
Nov 28	85	50	
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Nov 30	79	44	

Weather readings courtesy Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

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# Time to write letters to Santa for Christmas

Lauryn Lopez, who is three years old, wrote her letter to Santa very early this year. She dropped it off with Superior Sun staff while she was checking out the lights at Besich Park this weekend. Lauryn is asking Santa for dolls and toys from the movie Frozen and a Dr. McStuffin and new Barbies.

Lauryn is the daughter of Mario and Jaclynn Lopez of Superior.

Santa's mailbox can be found at Save Money Market in Superior.

Santa has also set up a special email address if you want to send your wishes to him electronically. The email address is [santa@minersunbasin.com](mailto:santa@minersunbasin.com). And please when emailing include the town where you live so that your letter can be published in the right newspaper. Hurry and get your letters in quick so they can be forwarded to the North Pole in plenty of time for the big day. The deadline to mail letters in Santa's special mailbox is Dec. 12. Santa needs time to get all the requests fulfilled.

## THIS 'N THAT

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER

#### Bingo at the VFW Post 3584 Starting Twice a Week

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Post 3584 in Superior is now doing bingo twice a week on Friday and Monday nights starting at 7 p.m., with a \$500 jackpot. Come join the fun!



#### 06 VFW Inside Yard Sale and pancake breakfast

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 3584 in Superior is having an inside yard sale Dec. 6. It's open to public, so come and rent a table for \$10, and make some extra cash for Christmas. There will also be a pancake breakfast by the Ladies Auxiliary and Post Comrades.



#### 05 Free Dental Screenings from Sun Life Family Health

Sun Life Family Health will have free dental screenings for children and pregnant women at the San Manuel and Oracle locations on the following dates: Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Oracle; Dec. 16, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in San Manuel; and Dec. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in San Manuel. All children from newborn to 18 years of age as well as expectant mothers are qualified for the screenings and fluoride treatments. All participants will receive a goody bag. For more information, please call 520-350-7600 or email [jeanine.Gooding@sllhc.org](mailto:jeanine.Gooding@sllhc.org).

#### 10 Superior Community Working Group to Meet

A meeting of the Town of Superior Community Working Group (CWG) is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 10. The CWG is made up of Town of Superior, Queen Valley and area residents and meets regularly to examine the facts surrounding the proposed Resolution Copper Mining Project. Meetings are held at the Superior Chamber of Commerce offices, 165 W. Main St. in Superior and are open to the public.

#### 12 Senior Christmas Luncheon in Hayden

The Hayden Senior Center will host its annual Christmas luncheon on Friday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All seniors in the Copper Corridor are invited. For transportation or questions, please call 520-356-7035. There will be food, music and fun.

### ON THE AGENDA

**FAMILY LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER BIBLE STUDY:** A Bible Study will be held each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Family Life Christian Center. Call 689-2202 for more information.

**SUPERIOR ROTARY CLUB:** The Superior Rotary Club is the oldest service club in Superior that is still in service today. If you are interested in becoming a Rotarian you can join them at their weekly meeting on Tuesdays at noon at Los Hermanos Restaurant.

**SUPERIOR SCHOOL BOARD:** Regular meetings of the Superior School District Governing Board are held at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium, at Kennedy Elementary School, 1500 Sunset Drive in Superior, usually on the first Wednesday of each month.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUPERIOR HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS:** Superior High School is taking preorders for the annual yearbooks, the Prospector. Cost now is \$45; it will increase to \$50 in February. Senior baby pictures are due to the school by Nov. 3. If you would like to purchase a Senior Dedication Ad, the deadline is Jan. 16. Ads are \$80 for a full page, \$60 for a half page and \$40 for a quarter page. For more information, please contact Christine Martinez at [cmartinez@superiorusd.org](mailto:cmartinez@superiorusd.org) or call 520-689-3102.

Submit information to [CBNSUN@minersunbasin.com](mailto:CBNSUN@minersunbasin.com) or call 520-363-5554. Listings are free. The Superior Sun reserves the right to edit or refuse submissions. Submissions are due the Friday before Wednesday publication.

## UNDERGROUND MINERS

Continued from page 4

Seppala shared how the safety requirements in mining makes the job much different from his early days as a miner. "There were no self rescuers back in the day, it was very scary," he said. Seppala explained that the miners were paid an additional half hour of pay to attend a daily safety meeting to ensure safety.

These two experienced miners provided the leadership that was needed to build the shaft. Carlos Martinez Jr. and Matthew Rabago took some time out of their day to talk a little bit about what it was like for them to make a decision to become a miner.

Carlos Martinez Jr. was working at Felicia's Ice Cream shop, a business his family owns and going to school to be a helicopter pilot when he learned about the shaft sinking jobs.

"I went from being in the sky to being underground," he said.

Martinez has worked on the project from the first blast to the last blast for a total of seven years. He began his career with Cementation in 2006, when he was just 19 years old; he is proud

of what has been accomplished. He graduated from Superior High School in 2006, he owns a home in Superior, has a girlfriend and a two year old son. He talked about how this job helped him to get his life settled.

Martinez explained the shaft sinking process in depth, just as a seasoned professional would. "First you drill 60 holes, load them with explosives at the bench and then you blast. After you blast you haul the muck away, about 40 buckets worth. Then we spray shotcrete for rock support, bring down the frames and pour the cement to construct the shaft," he said. The tool used provide more safety for the miners, the jumbo drills takes the place of the jack leg drill and a clam scoop is used to move the muck. The clam scoop is one of the tools that Martinez enjoys operating.

Matthew Rabago began working on the project four years ago when he was 21 years old. He graduated from Superior High School in 2007 and studied to be a mechanic; he wasn't planning on working underground but when

the opportunity came up he took it, and it doesn't appear that he will be turning back anytime soon.

He has a home in Superior. "These jobs help people build families in Superior and keep Superior good," he said with pride about the opportunity to work on the shaft sinking project. Rabago explained his job in three words: "wet, hard & heavy." Rabago also wanted to encourage students considering a career in mining. "Be ready and be safe, it's a good profession," he said.

These young men definitely work hard and are proud of what they and their crewmates have accomplished. Workers underground in this project often experienced hot and wet working environments and the long days are not something that everyone would want to endure. These working conditions have built a camaraderie that very few will ever experience in most occupations – they are each other's eyes and ears to ensure safety and most importantly make sure that everyone comes up to the surface.

"Underground miners are a

special breed of people," explained Seppala.

Other local miners who worked on this project included: George Bueno, Alan Fox, Edward Gomez, Arthur Lopez, Jacob Martinez, Alfredo Martinez, Carlos Martinez Jr., Tony Martinez Sr., Anthony Moraga, Ismael Perales, Rusty Perez, Argel (AJ) Quiroz, Matthew Rabago, Nick Sicord, Alfred Villalobos, John Allison and Billy Ramirez.

As the number ten shaft is completed these crews will transition into building the pump station so the shaft can remain dry which will protect the investment. The plans for the Resolution Copper Mining operations will call for the existing number nine shaft to be sunk to the 7,000 foot level and then connected to the number ten shaft. The number eleven shaft will also need to be built for the operations; its design could most definitely be a record breaker as one of the widest and deepest shafts in North America. There isn't an exact time frame on when the number nine or eleven shafts will begin.

## COURTHOUSE

Continued from page 3

to consider what needed to be done.

After meeting for six months, the task force issued its first set of recommendations for consideration by the Gila County Board of Supervisors. The board promptly adopted these recommendations and budgeted funds so they could be phased in on a periodic basis. As of this month, most of the measures have been implemented with a few to be completed in 2015.

As a result of recommendations of the security committee, Gila County has hired five additional courthouse security officers. All security officers have been given special training on how to handle situations where one of more gunman are terrorized an area by firing at people randomly.

New equipment purchases include 13 closed circuit TV cameras for

monitoring the grounds in and around the courthouses, video recording equipment, and four 17-inch flat-screen monitors for viewing the security footage live and for checking past events.

A secure entrance to the Globe courthouse has been established. The public now enters through only one entrance with metal detectors and lockers for the public to secure their personal property.

New tools for security officers to help detect potentially harmful metal objects on people entering the courthouses include two wands that officers can run pass entrants, and a magnetometer. So officers can keep in touch and alert other officers about security breaches, four new two-way radios were acquired; along with four tasers could use to bring under control people threatening security inside the courthouses.

Miscellaneous purchases include speakers for fire alarms and signage directing people to security checkpoints.

Since putting the equipment into use, there has been an increase in the number of potential weapons seized from people entering the Gila County Courthouse.

According to county records, in an average month, security personnel will seize nearly 100 knives. According to Griffin, most of these are utility-type knives that people in rural Arizona might carry like jackknives, penknives and Swiss Army knives that can still be considered a weapon. Security personnel catalog these tools for return to the person when they exit the building.

Also during an average month, security people seize about five guns, which the owners much leave for pickup after their judicial

business is completed.

Less frequently security personnel have seized four box cutters, three wire cutters, assorted screwdrivers and scissors, five sets of handcuff keys, several cans of pepper spray, some syringes and a marijuana pipe. Not all of these items are returned.

Similar measures are also being implemented in Payson although they have not been completed yet pending an ongoing refurbishing of the overall court facility.

Other measures to be implemented in the near future in both Globe and Payson include improved security related to vehicular traffic and access, particularly related to prisoner transport to and from the court facilities, Griffin explained.

Total cost of the security improvements is \$226,550, according to county records.

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### Cards of Thanks

On behalf of Molly Fontes and her family, we'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Mayor, Sam Hosler, the town Manager, Anna Flores, the town council, and all who attended, for allowing us to honor Molly with a dedication ceremony and plaque for her years of service to the Kearny Swimming Pool. We are grateful that so many shared endearing memories and loving thoughts of Molly's services to the town of Kearny. We also want to thank Jeff, Jake & Kevin for mounting the plaque above the door of the previous swimming pool. And thank you to those who attended her celebration. Your presence made the celebration even more special.

With deepest gratitude,  
Molly Fontes  
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