

# Opinion **extra!**

## Judicial system fails to handle crime

**W**hy does our local judicial system seem to fail us?

We are all warned about scammers, but sometimes it does happen, and when the guy is caught, you would think that would be the end of his criminality — at least in this area.

Having hired a contractor to raise the wall surrounding our backyard, checking his credentials, i.e., license, etc. (all bogus, it turned out) we entered a contract for \$6,000.

The brick wall and concrete

### In My View

By Clarence and Karin Mathews

was terrible and would not have passed inspection, so after having paid him \$5,500 already, he was fired. The cost of fixing the wall was estimated at \$3,000.

A call to the Arizona Registrar of Contractors showed he was not licensed with

them and was in violation of more than one statute. The case was entered in their data base, and a detective arrived with pictures for identification. As it turned out, this individual is suspected of scamming more Green Valley residents. At least three more victims have shown up for some of the scheduled "court hearings" with losses of more than \$14,000.

Here is the problem: Early March 2017, construction of our wall ended.

•April 5, 2017: First contact

and complaint filed.

•May 17, 2017: reply arrived with Case Number.

•Oct. 26, 2017: Scheduled Pretrial Conference at Green Valley Court

•Dec. 6, 2017: Case continued

•April 23, 2018: Case continued

•May 23, 2018: Case reset

•June 28, 2018: Case reset

(requested by defense counsel due to other cases the defendant has).

•Oct. 4, 2018: Case reset

•Dec. 19, 2018: Pretrial conference, case reset

•Feb. 27, next court date. This will be a change of plea.

How long is this to continue? How many more people must be scammed? And when will our judges demand the defendant show up for court hearings, or face the consequences? A \$50 default fine, as was done last time, is just not good enough.

Perhaps, we will study the next ballot a little more judiciously.

Clarence and Karin Mathews live in Green Valley.

### LETTERS

Continued from **A6**

6. Hiking without first aid kit containing appropriate items & the knowledge of how to use them: fire starter, whistle, signal mirror, space blanket, bandages, pencil, paper, etc.

7. Not doing the correct thing once you are lost. S.T.O.P. stop walking, think, observe, plan.

8. Not knowing and complying with the expected or unexpected weather conditions, e.g. cold, heat, rain, snow, flooding, and avalanche potential.

9. Not knowing or complying with your own physical limitations, knowledge of the terrain and access to the area you will be hiking in.

10. Carrying appropriate personal protection, bear spray.

Richard Milder  
Green Valley

#### GVR vote

Mr. John Fanning's offer in his letter to the editor Sunday to count ballots if GVR went back to paper ballots was very generous, however, we (GVR volunteers) did not count the ballots, we opened the envelopes and inspected the ballot to ensure it was properly completed ("Paper ballots," Feb. 17).

If there were any questionable ballots they were given to a panel of volunteers to

determine if the ballot could be counted.

The ballots were then placed in containers for transport to the Pima County Recorder's office to be counted. The counting by Pima County cost GVR approximately \$25,000, this cost was central to GVR changing to electronic voting once it was made legal in Arizona.

Recognizing that some GVR members may not have a computer or are not comfortable using it to cast their vote, the GVR Nominations and Elections Committee has arranged to have a computer available at the Las Campanas recreation center. There will be a member of the committee to assist members to get online and navigate to the ballot page, whereupon the member will be required to enter ballot access number that was included in the envelope from GVR sent out last week. Once the ballot is on the screen, the representative of the N&E Committee will withdraw and the member will be able to vote for the candidates running for the Board of Directors, and the proposed changes to the bylaws.

The kiosk will have someone in attendance each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 20 and 27, and March 6, 13 and 20, which is the last day to vote. On March 20, there will be a second session from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The N&E committee hopes that all the GVR members vote, either electronically or via the paper ballot.

Arthur Mournian  
Green Valley

#### Border warning

Concerning the issue of building a wall at certain points along the U.S.- Mexican border, I defer to the people most effected by the illegal immigration problem. They are the Customs and Border Protection personnel and the border residents, i.e. the ranchers and others who deal with the illegal activity daily.

They want a wall or some other impenetrable barrier! It will serve to restrict the illegal activity taking place in their "backyards." Educate yourself to the plight of these people.

How many "no wall" protesters actually understand the illegal immigration problem. I do! I am a veteran of the Citizen Advisory Board for the Nogales Border Patrol Station, the largest in the nation. I am a graduate of the first Citizens Academy of the Nogales BP station. For more than five years, I traveled most of the border from the New Mexico line to Ajo as well as the trails, washes and areas of illegal activity in Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties.

I am acquainted with many of the residents along the border from Naco to Sasabe. I am privy to weekly sources of information concerning illegal activity along and near the border. For the wall protesters I have two questions. 1. How many believe in the Rule of Law?

The laws are quite clear concerning immigration, legal and illegal. Check out

U.S. Code, Title 8, Sections 1325, as well as other sections, concerning "Aliens & Nationality." 2. How many are willing to take into your homes aliens with whom you are not acquainted and do not have any information concerning character, origin, motives and whether they have engaged in criminal activity.

If you believe in the rule of law and you are not willing to house illegal immigrants, why would you expect other citizens of the U.S. to be subject to these conditions, then pay for their care.

Don Severe  
Green Valley

#### Lucky to have hospital

While on a recent visit to Green Valley I found myself in what would have been a most unwelcome situation – a visit to the emergency room of Santa Cruz Valley Regional Hospital.

Instead, I was treated to the most kind and courteous car of Dr. Brian Gallman and his very sweet nurse.

They made me feel at ease, despite my chest pain. I was promptly given several tests and properly diagnosed. My questions were answered in detail and with utmost clarity.

You in Green Valley are truly blessed to have such a caring and competent staff in your hospital.

Sharon Hodges  
Lacey, Washington

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