

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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YCSO Recent Incidents Overview

(Congress, Cottonwood, Cornville)

May 29, 2014, Congress, Arizona – Donald Torgeson, 51, from Yarnell, was arrested for *DUI, Assault, Threatening, and Reporting a False Emergency*. Torgeson was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center and remains in-custody on a probation hold.



Torgeson

At approximately 4PM, deputies were dispatched to a restaurant in the 25000 block of Highway 89, Congress, regarding a threatening incident. The female victim indicated Torgeson earlier accused her of taking some cash and physically assaulted her in a Stanton area neighborhood (RV Park outside of Congress) and threatened to use a handgun if necessary. The victim noted Torgeson was highly intoxicated at the time. She admitted consuming several alcoholic beverages with Torgeson at the restaurant, then drove to the Stanton area as a passenger in his black Chevrolet Suburban. He eventually dropped her off near Stanton, but returned 10 minutes later and accused her of stealing cash from his vehicle glove box. At this point, she noticed Torgeson was bleeding on the left side of his face from an unknown cause. After grabbing her arm, he 'jerked her over to the truck,' while making threats. He eventually let her go and drove away, leaving her alone with minor injuries. The victim was able to return to the Highway 89 restaurant and contact YCSO.

Deputies went to Torgeson's home on Stanton Road in Congress, and found him driving nearby. Torgeson was stopped and arrested for Assault and DUI. Torgeson admitted he was also on active probation. He told deputies the dispute with the victim regarded an attempt to purchase meth. Deputies transported him to the Yarnell substation for DUI screening. While at the station he requested an opportunity to call his attorney. Instead, Torgeson used the phone to call 911 and report he had been arrested for "things he didn't do," and was not allowed to have any water. This action resulted in a Report of a False Emergency charge. Medics treated Torgeson for the cut on his face and the origin of this injury is still unknown.

Torgeson refused to submit to all DUI testing. When a search warrant was obtained, Torgeson agreed to comply and provide a blood sample. \$1000 was seized from Torgeson pending verification the money was part of an intended drug transaction.

May 28, 2014, Cottonwood, Arizona – *Assault with Knife* - Just before 11PM, deputies were dispatched to an assault in the 4500 block of E Silver Leaf Trail, Cottonwood. Deputies found a 21-year-old male victim with a serious head injury covered in blood. EMS personnel treated the victim as he explained that 48-year-old Randy Stewart assaulted him with a “machete” after the victim declined to purchase a vehicle from Stewart. Stewart struck the victim on the back of his head with additional blows to an arm and hand. The victim ran and barricaded himself in another room of the suspect’s home and the suspect eventually fled. Deputies obtained information from 2 witnesses who were home, but initially asleep, at the time of the attack.



Within a short period of time, deputies located and stopped the suspect as he was driving his white Ford F-150 truck along Highway 260 near Cherry Road, Cottonwood. Blood was found on Stewart’s clothing and inside his vehicle. The knife was also located and contained blood evidence. Stewart declined to discuss the incident at that time. He was placed under arrest for Aggravated Assault and Disorderly Conduct and booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center. He remains in custody on a \$35,000 bond.

The victim was treated at Verde Valley Medical Center. Although his injuries were not life threatening, the cut to his scalp was serious and took about 45 minutes for medical staff to treat and close. Detectives also noted several defensive wounds on the victim. Stewart later admitted to detectives he had assaulted the victim for reasons beyond a dispute over property, but would not elaborate.

May 28, 2014, Cornville, Arizona – *Restaurant Employees Lock Door to Prevent Disorderly Customer from Entering* – On May 28, 2014, around 7:30 PM, deputies were dispatched to the 9400 block of E. Cornville Road, Cornville, regarding a disorderly customer. Dispatchers were told about a man, later identified as 46-year-old Robert Burch from Cottonwood, who was pounding on the locked front door trying to get inside. Burch had been in the restaurant earlier complaining about his food. After serving another meal of his choice, Burch consumed the food and then left without paying. The staff and some customers believed Burch was drunk.



Burch went out to his vehicle and realized he had left his keys inside. Due to concern that Burch would drive drunk, employees locked the door and contacted YCSO. Just prior to the arrival of deputies, Burch kicked the door down and re-entered the restaurant. A YCSO supervisor arrived first and entered the restaurant to the sound of applause as those inside had become concerned for their safety. Burch was escorted from the back of the restaurant to an awaiting patrol car. Deputies could smell the strong odor of alcohol on his breath and person. He remained uncooperative during booking at the Camp Verde Detention Center.

Burch was charged with Criminal Damage, Theft of Services, and Disorderly Conduct. He has since been released on a \$2500 bond.