

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

September 23, 2008

Jailhouse law suit against Arpaio dismissed

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office won again in Federal court late last week. A civil rights suit filed by former inmate Mathew Grey was terminated in favor of the Sheriff's office by Judge John Sedwick. The judge ruled that Grey failed to establish any facts to support his claims of overcrowding, inedible and insufficient food, among other allegations. The plaintiff filed the suit claiming overcrowded jail conditions and poor food led him to suffer malnutrition and weight loss. The judge ruled there was no proof of deliberate indifference on the part of the Sheriff. Judgment in favor of Sheriff Arpaio was entered and Grey's case was dismissed. This victory represents the 11th legal victory by Sheriff Arpaio in recent months.

Animal Cruelty Conviction

An animal cruelty case against a valley man for illegal cockfighting resulted in a conviction today on two class 5 felonies, 30 days in jail and three (3) years probation for the offender.

Aaron Aliser (11-17-72) was operating a cockfighting ring in the Wittman area when deputies were tipped off to the location in late April. Upon arrival, participants scattered but the operator was caught and jailed for animal cruelty. About 119 chickens were found at the site, all showed signs of serious injuries and were euthanized.

Crime in the Valley Down, Due in Part to Sheriff's Efforts against Illegal Immigration?

FBI statistics indicate that violent crime and property crimes are down in many jurisdictions in Maricopa County this year and some legislators suggest Arpaio's controversial stance against illegal immigration may be a contributing factor.

Since April of 2006, Sheriff's deputies have arrested 1,081 of illegals under the state's anti human smuggling law. Additionally, Sheriff's detention officers have investigated over 17,000 illegals in jail placing immigration holds on them, ultimately preventing their release back to the streets. Even federal authorities say the numbers of illegal immigrants coming into the county is down. "All these factors help to reduce crime in the county," Arpaio says.

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