



COURTHOUSE BOMB THREAT

Gallup, March 11

The district courthouse was cleared for a couple of hours on March 11 after an employee received a bomb threat.

The employee said the person was going to blow everyone up and then hung up. Police secured the building and using canines searched the building, but found no bomb.

MORTUARY BREAK-IN

Tse Bonito, March 11

McKinley County Sheriff deputies received a report on March 11 from Tse Bonito Mortuary that someone had been in the building over the weekend.

An official told deputies she looked at a surveillance tape and discovered that someone had entered the building just before it was closed up on March 8. That person hid behind a sofa and came out when everyone left.

The woman was seen taking water and a bottle of hand sanitizer from one of the desks. She later returned the sanitizer and exited the building. No one recognized the woman.

ATTEMPTED ASSAULT

Gallup, March 5

Gallup Patrolman Domenic Molina was dispatched about 10 am on March 5 to a business at 1630 W. Highway 66 because of a problem with a customer.

When he arrived at the store, he found EZ Garcia, 27, of Cuba, N.M., threatening an employee. He reportedly had a knife so Molina ordered him to get on the ground, which he did. Police found a knife in his pocket.

Employees at the store said Garcia had been in the store earlier and had ordered a part for his car. He came back a short time later and bypassed other customers to the front of the line and became upset at employes who were all helping other customers.

He then came back with his mother and when one of the female employees asked if she could help him, he reportedly said “wipe that smile off your face or I will remove it for you.”

He then reportedly pulled out a knife and charged her. She ran away and a male employee confronted him, at which time he put the knife back in his pocket.

Police later talked to his mother, who said her son had been aggressive and violent for the past few days. He was charged with aggravated battery.

SHOPLIFTING ARREST

Gallup, March 2

A Piñon woman is facing shoplifting, battery and criminal damage to property charges in connection with an incident that occurred on March 2 at the Fashion Mart on U.S. Highway 491.

When police arrived on the scene, they found Carmelita Begay, 25, being detained by security guards from Heritage Plaza.

The owner of the business, Woo Kil, said Begay came into his store and took some clothing without paying for it. He said he went outside and confronted her and recovered the clothing. He said he then took her back into his business where she threw items off his counter and destroyed his security gate.

He then told police the woman became very combative but fortunately, a security guard showed up and placed her in handcuffs. She still remained combative and began kicking him, he said.

The damage to the security gate was estimated at about $3,000.

PHONE SCAMMER

Gallup, March 1

A Gallup woman reported to police that she was scammed out of $4,000 by a man over the phone on March 1.

The man told her that his company. Microsoft, was going out of business and was returning $450 to its customers. He gave her instructions on how to get that money into her account.

When she did, he told her she added an extra zero and received #4,500 instead. He then convinced her to purchase eight Google Play cards and put $500 in each. When she did, he called back later and got the numbers.

She said she didn't realize she had been scammed until four days later when she checked her bank account and found that no money had been deposited in it by the company.

LATE-NIGHT BREAK-IN

Gallup, March 1

Gallup police investigated a break-in on March 1 on Country Club Drive after the homeowner called in about 12:30 am asking for police assistance.

The homeowner said he had just come home and found the front door wide open and he wanted police to check the house before he went inside. Police did and found no one inside.

The homeowner, however, said someone had been there because he found a couple of things out of place. Nothing was reported stolen, although there was money and two guns in plain sight.

The homeowner said he was going to spend the night at a relative’s home.