



Cottonwood Police Department Press Release

4/14/14

Parking lot accident leads to DUI:

On Saturday evening Cottonwood Police were called to an accident in the parking lot of the Chaparral Bar. When Officers arrived on scene they were advised 37 year old Cornville resident, Leonel Hernandez, had been asked to leave the bar after showing signs of heavy intoxication. According to witnesses, Hernandez got into a Blue Chevy pickup where he peeled out of the parking lot in reverse striking a parked vehicle with 2 occupants inside. The force of the collision pushed the occupied vehicle into a third vehicle causing damage to all 3 vehicles. Hernandez attempted to drive off from the scene but was stopped by the bars bouncer. Hernandez exited his vehicle and again reportedly tried to flee, this time on foot. Again Hernandez was kept on scene by the bars bouncer. Once Police arrived on scene they observed Hernandez with bloodshot watery eyes, and was staggering as he walked. Hernandez was unable to complete his Field Sobriety Test but did give a Portable Breath Test which showed his intoxication level to be a .20. Hernandez was later booked into the YCSO jail on the charges of, Criminal Damage over \$1,000.00, Endangerment, both Felonies, and DUI.

Mingus Prom not so Promising for 4 students:

18 year old Haley Jade Backus, 18 year old Destinie Ebert, and a 17 year old female, were cited and released late Saturday night early Sunday morning for underage consumption of alcohol while at the Mingus Union High School Prom which was being held at the Hilton Resort in Sedona. A school staff member noticed 3 female students were acting "Strangely" and suspected they may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The students were brought into a side room away from the prom activities where Cottonwood officers, working the prom detail, began their investigation. All 3 females showed signs of recent alcohol use. It was discovered the 3 females had been drinking alcohol from a water bottle which they had since thrown away in one of the bathrooms. The water bottle was later recovered and the 3 females, after being cited by Police, were released to one of the parents.

Also in the early morning hours Sunday, Cottonwood Police were called to the VVMC Emergency Department for a report of alcohol poisoning. When Officers arrived on scene they discovered a 17 year old female student, who had earlier been at the Prom, unconscious and being attended to by medical personal. According to the report, the female's sister and mother located the female at an address off of East Cypress after she failed to return home from the Prom at her designated time. Due to the intoxication level of the female Officers were unable to conduct an interview with her at the time. The female was cited for underage consumption of alcohol and she was discovered to have an intoxication level of .220. Officers further responded to the East Cypress area in an attempt to locate any "After parties" but were unable to locate any further signs of any parties.