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UA GIVEN SEDONA-AREA PROPERTY



COURTESY OF THE STEELE FOUNDATION

The UA pledged to preserve the DK Ranch, 45 acres on Oak Creek near Cornville southwest of Sedona, for agricultural use.

Veterinary students to gain from \$2.6M ranch donation

By Carol Ann Alaimo
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Future veterinary students at the University of Arizona will get hands-on experience at a real working ranch near Sedona, thanks to a \$2.6 million property donation.

The Steele Foundation, a Phoenix-based philanthropic organization, is handing over the deed to a 45-acre spread in Yavapai County for use by the UA's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its fledgling veterinary medical and surgical program.

The scenic, spring-fed DK Ranch is in the tiny community of Cornville southwest of Sedona. It includes two barns,

a three-bedroom house and several other buildings.

Under the terms of the donation deal, the UA pledged to preserve the land for agricultural use. The school will hire a live-in caretaker and spend about \$200,000 a year to maintain the ranch.

"It's beautiful. We're so excited about this property," said **Shane Burgess**, dean of the UA Agriculture College.

The acquisition will be a boost to the school's new veterinary program expected to launch in August next year,

Burgess said.

Details are being worked out, but the UA hopes to have veterinary students do a residency of sorts at the ranch, living on-site for six weeks or more to complete rotations in ranch management, wildlife medicine and management, human-animal interdependence and other related areas.

Those students aren't the only ones who will benefit.

Others, in fields such as plant sciences, food safety and natural resources, also will spend time learning there.

Cattle and horses will be permanent residents, and the UA may also plant crops on-site. The university has partnered with Yavapai College, and some college programs such as viticulture, the growing of wine grapes — could have links to the ranch, the dean said.

The Steele Foundation, named for late philanthropist Horace W. Steele of Phoenix, has donated more than \$75 million over the last 30 years or so, much of it to the state's

See RANCH, A4



Marianne Cracchiolo Mago

See more photos at tucson.com/gallery

AZ's civil forfeiture laws face ACLU test

Revenue clouds police motives, goes the argument in Pinal case

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — The ACLU on Wednesday filed a broad-based constitutional challenge to the ability of prosecutors and police in Arizona to seize private property without a court order.

In legal papers filed in U.S. District Court, the American Civil Liberties Union claims that San Tan Valley resident **Rhonda Cox** had her rights violated when Pinal County sheriff's deputies took her truck and the Pinal County Attorney's Office sold it based on the activities of her son. It asks Judge **Diane Humetewa** to require Pinal County officials, named as defendants, to reimburse her.

There was no comment from either Sheriff **Paul Babeu** or County Attorney **Lando Voyles**, who ran as a ticket in the 2012 campaign.

But while the lawsuit focuses on the Pinal officials, the real goal is to get the judge to void laws that are used extensively by police and prosecutors throughout the state.

See SEIZURES, A4

11 million at risk of receiving lower disability checks

By David Lauter
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Nearly 11 million Americans who receive federal disability benefits risk seeing their checks reduced unless Congress acts by next year to replenish the system's trust fund, the Social Security trustees reported Wednesday.

The pending cash crunch in the disability fund is one of those slow-motion — and largely self-created — crises that Congress usually fails to resolve until a deadline hits. The latest report sets that deadline, the date when the disability trust fund will hit insolvency, for late next year.

After that point, tax revenues will cover only about 80 percent of scheduled disability benefits, unless Congress acts to fix the system.

The trustees also forecast that the main Social Security retirement fund will remain solvent until 2034, one year longer than previously reported. The Medicare trust fund will remain solvent until 2030, the trustees projected, the same date reported last year.

"Both Social Security and Medicare are secure today and will remain secure in the years to

See CHECKS, A4

Armed citizens watch over recruiting centers

Presence of guards after Tenn. shooting draws some concern

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Gun-toting citizens are showing up at military recruiting centers around the country, saying they plan to protect recruiters following last week's killing of four Marines and a sailor in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The citizens, some of them private militia members, said they're supporting the re-

cruiters, who by military directive are not armed.

"We're here to serve and protect," Clint Janney said Tuesday, wearing a Taurus 9 mm handgun as he stood in a parking lot across from a recruiting center on the west side of Columbus. "What the government won't do, we will do."

Similar posts have been set up outside recruitment centers in several cities around the country, from Spanaway, Washington, to Hiram, Georgia. Other sites are in

See ARMED, A4



MICHAEL CIAGLO / THE GAZETTE

Armed citizens stand guard outside a Colorado Springs, Colorado, Armed Forces Career Center on Wednesday.

COMING SUNDAY

TUCSON PRESENCE FELT: University of Arizona set to expand its footprint in downtown Phoenix.



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200-plus in Ariz. National Guard ordered to be armed while on duty

By Howard Fischer
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

PHOENIX — Fearing a repeat of what happened in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Gov. **Doug Ducey** directed that more than 200 members of the Arizona National Guard — and potentially thousands — be armed while on duty.

The executive order Wednesday spells out that Guard members working outside secure facilities like military installations must be issued sidearms to protect themselves. Gubernatorial adviser **J.P. Twist** said that is designed to address what happened last week when five service members were killed at the Tennessee operational support center.

But the governor's order goes farther. It actually permits Maj. Gen. **Michael McGuire**, the top military officer of the Guard, to allow individual Guard members to bring their own personal handguns onto secure Guard facilities.

Twist said that is because history shows that while radicals may seek out "soft" targets like recruiting cen-

ters, they have acted out elsewhere.

He specifically pointed to a 2009 incident at Fort Hood that left 13 dead and injured more than 30 others; another shooting at the Texas fort last year resulted in the deaths of five people, including the gunman.

Press aide **Daniel Scarpinato** said Ducey's action, similar to what has been done by several other governors, is justified.

"Given the incidents we've seen, most recently in Chattanooga, the governor believes we need to make the safety and security of our Guard personnel a huge priority," he said.

"We need to assure them that they're safe and make sure they have the tools to remain safe," Scarpinato continued.

"And so this policy, which was developed in close consultation with the National Guard, will allow them to protect themselves and not be vulnerable."

The main focus, said Twist, will be those working away from secure places like the Papago Reservation in Phoenix, the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson and Camp Navajo west of Flagstaff. All of those have guards at the gates and armed security personnel.

But that still leaves more than a dozen Guard recruiting stations and several armories that do not have armed security.

Soldiers and airmen assigned to those facilities will be issued sidearms, with Twist stressing there will be no rifles or automatic weapons.

Twist said he thinks that involves about 225 individuals.

Lt. Col. **Gabe Johnson** declined to spell out specific numbers for security reasons, saying only that "hundreds" of Guard members fall into that category.

The potentially larger group includes soldiers and airmen who work on the Guard military installations.



Gov. Doug Ducey

ARMED

Continued from Page A1

Madison, Wisconsin; McAllen, Texas; Auburn Hills, Michigan; Phoenix; and several locations in Tennessee, including Murfreesboro.

There's no evidence that such centers are in danger, and the government isn't changing how they're staffed, although some governors have temporarily moved National Guard recruiting centers to armories and several have authorized Guard personnel to carry weapons at state facilities.

In Arizona, armed members of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's volunteer posse patrolled Tuesday around Army Reserve offices in Buckeye, about 30 miles west of downtown Phoenix.

The sheriff said he decided to have three posse members patrol after an Army Reserve captain requested extra security. Posse members are patrolling the area just outside the Reserve grounds, but Arpaio said they would enter the property if extra security was needed.

Janney, 38, who runs his own garage door company, is a member of the Ohio branch of the "3 Percent Irregulars" militia. He was joined by four other members of the militia, some of whom arrived Tuesday and others who'd been there since Friday. In Ohio and many states, it is legal to carry an openly displayed handgun or rifle.

The men sat in lawn chairs, occasionally dipping into a cooler for bottles of water, or stood around talking. Some people came by to thank them; others didn't seem aware of their presence in the large plaza.

LOCAL ANGLE

Earlier this week, armed individuals stood guard in front of a military recruiting office in midtown Tucson, said Officer Kristopher Goins, spokesman for the Tucson Police Department.

At the request of the people inside the office, police asked the armed individuals to leave and they left without incident, Goins said. No other details were available.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department has not received reports of any similar incidents outside recruiting stations located in the county, said Deputy Tracy Suitt.

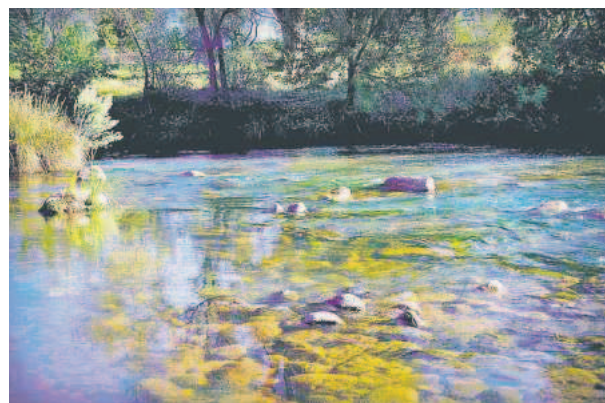
Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott said that as long as the owner of the plaza didn't ask them to leave, the men were not violating any laws. Scott has instructed deputies to check on recruiting centers but not the volunteer guards.

Employees of a medical supply center next to the recruiting center said they understood the volunteers' intentions but weren't thrilled about their presence. Customers leaving the store said they appreciated the volunteers but thought professional security guards would be better.

"They could just go crazy with the shooting. You just don't know their state of mind," said Kimm McLaughlin, 44.

Capt. Jim Stenger, a Marine Corps public affairs officer for the recruiting district that includes parts of seven Midwestern states, said he hopes the gun-toting civilians will go home.

"While we greatly appreciate the support of the American public during this tragedy, we ask that citizens do not stand guard at our recruiting offices," Stenger said in an emailed statement.



COURTESY OF THE STEELE FOUNDATION

In addition to veterinary students, those studying plant sciences, food safety and natural resources could benefit.

RANCH

Continued from Page A1

three public universities.

The Steele Children's Research Center, part of UA's medical school, is one example of past projects the foundation has supported.

The foundation has owned the Cornville property since 2009 and want-

ed it to remain as a ranch and be used for educational purposes, said foundation President **Marianne Cracchiolo Mago**.

"We are confident that the DK Ranch is in great hands and believe that our mission and spirit of helping others will be upheld with this gift," she said.

Contact Carol Ann Alaimo at calaimo@tucson.com or 573-4138.

CHECKS

Continued from Page A1

come," Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said in announcing the latest forecasts.

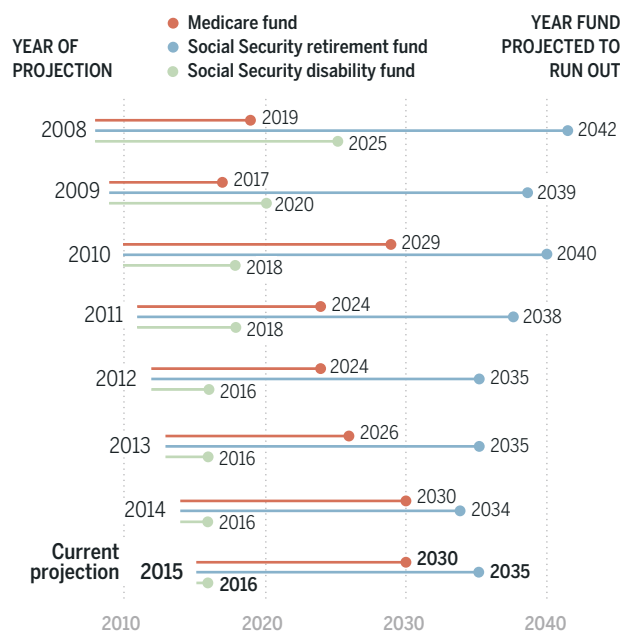
While Social Security and Medicare face long-term financial problems related to the growth in the number of retirees in the country, the problems of the disability insurance system are more urgent, although long predicted.

The number of disabled workers in the United States has doubled since 1995 due to several factors, including the aging of the baby boom generation, which means there are more workers in their 50s and 60s, the peak ages for disability. The rise in the Social Security retirement age has also led to more people working later in life.

The growth in the number of disability recipients has slowed in the last two

Tracking Social Security, Medicare

Each year, the federal government projects when the giant trust funds for Social Security and Medicare are expected to run dry.



7/23/15 SOURCE: Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds AP

years, largely because the economy has improved, but the number of people on the rolls already has grown beyond the system's current financing.

Disability benefits are financed by a portion of the Social Security taxes that workers and their employers pay. Currently, 0.9 percent of earnings go to the disability fund and 5.3 percent go to the retirement fund.

Most Democratic lawmakers and advocates for disability recipients argue that Congress should solve the disability system's problem by increasing the share of the tax that goes to the disability fund. Congress has shifted the allocation formula in both directions several times going back decades.

This year, however, Republicans in Congress adopted a rule designed to prevent that shift from taking place. They argue that too many workers are receiving disability payments and that the system should be reworked as part of any solution to the disability system's financial problems.

SEIZURES

Continued from Page A1

Attorney **Jean-Jacques Cabou** said the Arizona law has provisions which violate various constitutional rights. And he said a ruling that enjoins Pinal County officials from using the laws effectively would block state, county and city police and prosecutors statewide.

At the heart of the case are the state's civil assets forfeiture laws. They are designed to allow prosecutors to deprive criminals of the assets used in breaking the law.

But what's happened, Cabou said, is that police and prosecutors have become dependent on all the money raised. That, he said, creates "perverse incentives" for law enforce-

ment officers to go out of their way not just to seize property but to throw roadblocks in the path of those who make efforts to retrieve what has been taken.

He said there's a lot of money involved.

Cabou said the accounts for the Attorney General's Office at last count had more than \$31 million. A pooled account for county attorneys, he said, had \$43.2 million, with local agencies holding \$9.5 million.

And Cabou said these funds are controlled by police and prosecutors, providing them with "a perverse, unfair, unconstitutional incentive to seize and forfeit as much money and property as possible as a means to ensure a slush fund available to them with little or no oversight."

By contrast, he said, federal laws and those in most other states have the proceeds from seized property go into the general treasury, removing the incentive for police and prosecutors to go after as much as they can.

Cabou acknowledged that Cox's son, **Chris**, had been arrested in 2013 after deputies determined that the hood and a cover on the back of her pickup truck, which he was driving, had been stolen. Based on that, deputies seized the truck.

The attorney said, though, that Cox herself was unaware of the stolen item and therefore, under the terms of the law, entitled to have it returned. That did not happen and the truck and its contents eventually were sold.

Cabou said there are var-

ious problems with the law.

For example, he said, the property is automatically taken unless the owner challenges it. He said Arizona law specifically allows for challenges for various reasons, including that the owner had no knowledge of the crime committed with the property by someone else.

But he said it takes a \$304 filing fee just to get into court, more than some property is worth. And that's even assuming the person does not hire legal counsel. That, he said, is inherently unfair — and he believes illegal.

"The state takes your stuff," Cabou said. "And the only process by which you're allowed to fight for it is one in which you have to pay to play."

The other big flaw in the Arizona law, he said, are the "one-way attorneys' fees."

Cabou said a deputy Pinal County attorney threatened that if Cox lost, prosecutors would pursue her for all of its fees and costs.

But Cabou said the law is set up so that if a property owner like Cox wins, she does not get her legal fees paid by the county. So she gave up the fight.

In essence, he said, the laws "punish Rhonda for standing up for herself and her property in court."

Then there's the legal process itself.

"Rhonda was caught in a Kafkaesque predicament where, bizarrely, she bore the burden of proving that she was entitled to get the truck back," Cabou wrote. "The state did not have to

prove that Rhonda did anything wrong — let alone criminal — in order to keep the truck."

In the lawsuit, Cabou takes particular aim at Pinal County officials.

He listed some uses of the funds, including that Voyles has his home security system paid for with money from seized items. Other uses by Voyles include office staff and retirement contributions for employees.

And Cabou said Babeu funnels money into a foundation "which buys things for him and his department." What that does, said the lawyer, is allow Babeu to avoid laws on seeking bids for items and providing a public record of where the money goes.

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