

GREEN VALLEY NEWS AND SUN

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Rose show

'Galaxy of Roses' will sparkle and shine at East Center.

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GVR Board has to vote again on 2006 budget. A5

Growth keeps Fire District personnel hopping.

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MARIO AGUILAR | GREEN VALLEY NEWS

BORDER PATROL drug-sniffing dog Britta looks for contraband at the Interstate 19 checkpoint at the Agua Linda exit, about 14 miles south of Green Valley. Britta's handler is agent Christopher Jahara. The Border Patrol hopes to build a permanent check on the interstate to replace temporary ones.

Permanent I-19 checkpoint moves toward reality

By Jim Lamb
Green Valley News

The Border Patrol's temporary, mobile checkpoints on I-19 south of Green Valley will probably be replaced with a permanent one authorities are saying.

Opponents say a permanent station isn't as much a deterrent as the temporary ones, and it would create a kind of invisible barrier that

The retirement of U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., was a major factor in the expected demise of the temporary checkpoints.

As a 22-year House veteran Kolbe consistently blocked funding for a permanent checkpoint in the Border Patrol's Tucson sector which includes Interstate 19.

Currently the temporary checkpoint moves between the Agua Linda exit about 14 miles south of Green Valley

And although the climate seems right to establish a permanent checkpoint on the interstate, there are many hurdles before it becomes a reality.

One is where to locate it. Border Patrol supervisory agent Lou Maheda said early Thursday morning at the Agua Linda checkpoint.

Cars and trucks inched past while another agent with a drug sniffing dog checked them.

He added "At permanent stations there are more lanes, some for just trucks and buses, the others for cars."

The Tubac organization Santa Cruz Valley Citizens Council has consistently opposed a permanent checkpoint.

Some members said a permanent checkpoint loses the element of surprise that a temporary one provides by moving frequently to con-

2008 bond election could include West Desert Preserve

By Tim Hull
Green Valley News

Hundreds of acres of State Trust land local residents have dubbed the West Desert Preserve could be purchased by Pima County through a possible 2008 bond election, county documents say.

The purchase would allow for the preservation of the land to the west of Green Valley as a kind of wild desert park. The land is already being used by hikers, mountain bike enthusiasts and dog-walkers.

In an August letter to Bill Adamson, co-chair of the Committee to Save the West Desert Preserve, county officials said that the county's Conservation Acquisition Commission has added the land to a list of properties eligible for conservation through a potential 2008 bond election.

Just getting on that list, which includes 20 other properties, isn't enough to save the land, wrote Nicole Fyffe, executive assistant to Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry in the letter to Adamson.

"There are far more properties included on the preliminary list than can be purchased with the proposed bond funding allocation," she wrote.

The effort to preserve the

land as a recreation area and a buffer between residential Green Valley and the Phelps Dodge Sierrita Mine to the west has already garnered significant local support.

Adamson says that 38 homeowners' associations, representing about 44 percent of Green Valley homes, have sent letters to Pima County supporting the West Desert Preserve concept, as have the Green Valley Community Coordinating Council and Green Valley Recreation. Phelps Dodge also supports the concept, Adamson says.

"We have crossed a major hurdle (by making it on the preliminary list)," he added. "We will need to stay on the list, and of course the future bond election will have to happen."

There is no word yet on how much the land would cost; currently State Trust land is sold to the highest bidder with the money going to support schools, prisons, and other state services.

Two competing measures on the Nov. 7 ballot would reform that process.

A meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 4 at Desert Hills Social Center, 1980 South Camino del Sol, at which residents can learn more about the proposed 2008 bond election.

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Bush signs another bill to build border fence