

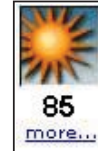


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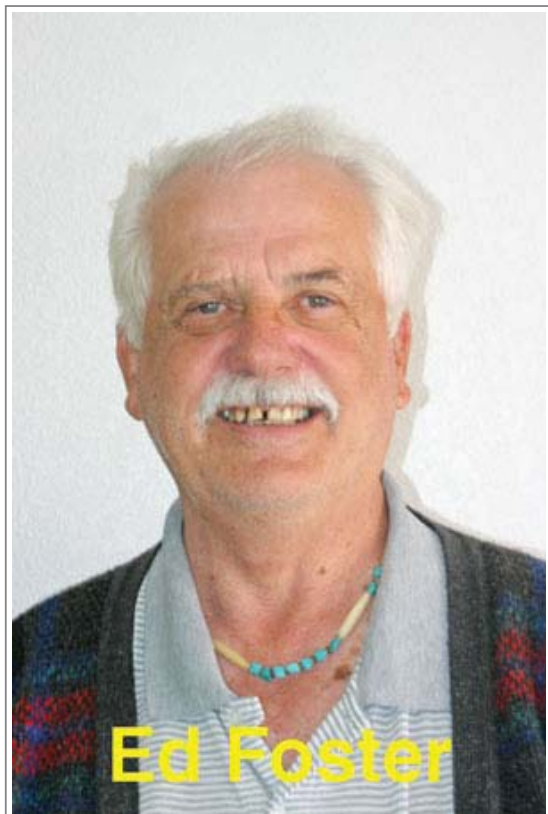
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News

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Quartzsite Mayor arrested and released

By **JOHN GUTEKUNST**
Parker Pioneer
Thursday, May 19, 2011 8:59 AM MST



Ed Foster

Quartzsite Mayor Ed Foster was arrested, cited and released by the Quartzsite Police Department May 10 before the regular session of the Quartzsite Town Council. The arrest was on charges stemming from an incident May 5. Following his release, Foster returned to Town Hall and presided over the council meeting.

The charges include three misdemeanors: disorderly conduct- fighting/violent disruptive; disorderly conduct- refusal to disperse at an emergency; and hindering prosecution.

A felony charge, obstructing criminal investigations, was initially included. However, County Attorney Sam Vederman, citing the facts in the case and the political climate in Quartzsite, said the state would not prosecute this charge.

The case will be prosecuted in the Quartzsite Magistrate Court.

The incident May 5 involved the arrest of Quartzsite resident Jennifer "Jade" Harris-Jones for trespassing. Harris-Jones was on the scene of what was described as a "high profile drug investigation" in the employee parking lot behind town hall.

QPD Sgt. Xavier Frausto said Harris-Jones had locked herself inside her car and was refusing to comply with orders from officers.

Frausto said Foster arrived on the scene and allegedly began to interfere with



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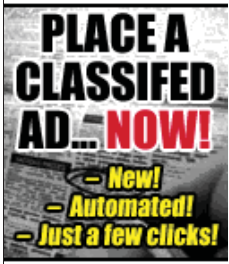
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the officers. He was advised by Police Chief Jeff Gilbert not to interfere, but he would not leave.

As Harris-Jones was being arrested, Frausto said she tossed her keys toward Foster, who allegedly stood on them and would not comply with orders to get off them.

Foster told the Pioneer Harris-Jones had called him and he went to the scene because she has filed legal action against the town, claiming police harassment.

"I was telling him (Gilbert) that he was giving her and her attorneys more ammunition," Foster said.

A hearing has been set for June 8 in Quartzsite Magistrate Court. However, Foster has requested a change of venue outside La Paz County.

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