



JEROME MUNICIPAL COURT

Hon. Angela M. Bradshaw Napper, Magistrate

P. O. Box 335 / 600 Clark Street
Jerome, AZ 86331

Phone (928) 649-3250

TO: Jerome Town Council

FROM: Angela M. Bradshaw Napper, Magistrate

SUBJECT: Monthly Staff Report

DATE: July 2, 2026

The business of the Court is good. June was a busy month with several hearings, new filings, judicial training, and staff training. Chelsey participated in training locally in Prescott and remotely through programs offered in Cochise County. She attended classes on computer security; interpreter ethics; understanding the *Bystander Effect*; and giving legal information not legal advice. The judicial conference was held in Tucson this year. I attended training on the following: the business of running a limited jurisdiction court; trends and challenges with young-adult offenders; updates in evidence; lower court appeals; and the weaponization of personal data through AI. The opening keynote speakers were Gary Wright and David Kaczynski, victim and brother, respectively, of the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski. It was a powerful and moving presentation about how survivors on both sides of tragedy in life and in the justice system found an uncommon path forward with forgiveness and empathy. To learn more about this inspiring relationship, I recommend the following:

[Podcast with David Kaczynski & Gary Wright: Reconciled After Unabomber Violence \(May 2025\) – Restorative Justice International](#)

[Ted Kaczynski's Brother Wrote Him For Decades to Explain Why He Turned Him In - The New York Times](#)

Our quarterly Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEPC) meeting was rescheduled to later this month. I reviewed our fiscal year-end budget and am pleased that although we were under budget in anticipated revenues, we were also under in expenses. We are changing internal recordkeeping for purchase requisitions from paper to digital in the hope that we will be better able to monitor expenses throughout the year.

As of this writing, I am looking forward to the holiday weekend and the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. I am confident that, particularly as members of the town council, each of you deeply appreciates this momentous occasion. Members of the judicial branch frequently receive emails from the Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer marking special occasions. Rather than trying to write something original, I am sharing some of her words from this holiday's email urging members of the judiciary to recommit to our principles and why we do what we do:

The Declaration of Independence is sometimes treated as a ceremonial preface to our constitutional story. Something to read on the Fourth of July and set aside. But

its power is not ceremonial. It is the moral foundation of American democracy. It tells us why the rule of law exists at all.

Abraham Lincoln understood this better than almost anyone. He did not treat the Declaration as a relic of 1776. He treated it as a living statement of national purpose. When Lincoln responded to the Dred Scott decision, he explained that the founders did not declare equality because it was already true; they declared it as a standard, a principle “constantly looked to, constantly labored for, and even though never perfectly attained, constantly approximated.” A hard nut to crack for future oppressors, he called it.

His words for what to do when we fall short: come back. Come back to first principles. Come back to equality under law. Come back to the rule of law as a restraint on power rather than a tool of it.

On this 250th anniversary of the Declaration, I hope we each take a moment to recommit as well. Not to a perfect past that never existed, but to the principles that have always pointed us toward a better future: equality, liberty, the dignity of every person, and the rule of law that binds us to those promises.

Well said, I concur. As ever, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Town of Jerome.