

# CRIME FIGHTER

The Safety Newsletter of the Oro Valley Police Department

Second Quarter 2016

## Inside This Issue

Fun with Traffic Laws  
2

911 Education Month  
4

CPTED Territoriality 6

Contact  
Information ..... 9

## Senior Drug Mules



WASHINGTON – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials issued a warning today about a scheme that conned dozens of elderly U.S. citizens into being unwitting drug mules to countries with severe penalties for drug-related charges, like Australia and New Zealand. The

announcement was made by A. Scott Brown, Acting Assistant Director of Investigative Programs for ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), during a hearing before the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

The average age of the 144 couriers was 59; the oldest of these was 87. The oldest individual conned as a part of this scheme was 97; however, HSI special agents identified him before he left the United States to participate in the endeavor and convinced him to abandon his travel plans because he was likely to be another victim. The victims were recruited via social media, cyber begging and telemarketing fraud. Investigators believe over 30 individuals from the United States remain incarcerated overseas.

"Those who target vulnerable populations, to include our elderly, are among the worst kinds of criminals. Heart breaking does not begin to describe some of these case details," said ICE Director Sarah R. Saldaña. "It is the job of law enforcement to bring these perpetrators to justice, but it is all of our jobs to teach our own loved ones to be vigilant against these kinds of schemes."

The ruse entices victims with a promise of an inheritance or business opportunity and the requirement that they fly to various countries to meet with "attorneys" or "business partners," with all travel and expenses paid by the transnational criminal organization. On the final leg of the trip, the victims are asked to take seemingly harmless items along with them for their business contacts at the next location. Upon arrival and inspection, these innocuous items are found to contain drugs resulting in detention and arrest by local authorities. The drugs are concealed in everything from chocolates, picture frames, tea and markers to canned goods, shampoo bottles, soap and wooden hangers.

To date, HSI and CBP have worked with their foreign counterparts to intercept 144



[www.ovpd.org](http://www.ovpd.org)

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# Senior Drug Mules Continued

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couriers carrying a total of 272 kilograms of methamphetamine, 209 kilograms of cocaine, 4 kilograms of ecstasy and 11 kilograms of heroin. Fifteen facilitators affiliated with the transnational criminal organization were also arrested.

It should be noted, that while HSI makes efforts to prevent potential elderly couriers from departing the United States, the short window of opportunity and the strong relationship scammers have established with their victims makes this difficult. The recruited individuals are often so engaged with the criminal organization, they do not believe the truth when they are confronted with it because these organizations warn their victims not to believe anyone who approaches them as law enforcement. HSI has warned elderly unwitting couriers concerning their potential role in this scheme, only to have them book travel and be intercepted in another country with narcotics.

While organizations like these will victimize consumers of all ages, backgrounds and income levels, the elderly are disproportionately targeted, according to investigators. Perpetrators take advantage of the fact that elderly Americans may be lonely and not have the Internet savvy to recognize the scam.

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dhs-officials-issue-warning-about-scams-targeting-senior-citizens-unknowingly-act>

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## Fun with Traffic Laws

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Recently we've received a number of complaints, and some of this may come from some confusion about what the rules may be. So, I'd like to take some time to review what Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) have to say about bicycle and pedestrians!

### Bicycles

#### Can bikes ride in the roadway?

Yes

They must follow the rules of the road (stopping at stop signs, red lights). Additionally, ARS 28-815A states "A person riding a bicycle on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway." There are some exceptions to this:

- A. If overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- B. If preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway.
- C. If reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, animals or surface hazards.
- D. If the lane in which the person is operating the bicycle is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

ARS 28-815B states that bicycles may ride two abreast on roads, but **no more than two!**

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# Fun with Traffic Laws Continued

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## At night do bicycles need a lamp or a reflector?

Yes, for both! Specifically, ARS 28-817A states:

**“A bicycle that is used at nighttime shall have a lamp on the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear** of a type that is approved by the department and that is visible from all distances from fifty feet to three hundred feet to the rear when the reflector is directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A bicycle may have a lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector.”

## I walk, and pedestrians are allowed to do whatever they want, wherever they want. There are no traffic laws concerning pedestrians

Completely not true! ARS 28-796 is specifically geared towards Pedestrians on Roadways. Here's what it says!

### Pedestrians

A. If sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian shall not walk along and on an adjacent roadway.

B. If sidewalks are not provided, a pedestrian walking along and on a highway shall walk when practicable only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic that may approach from the opposite direction.

### Pedestrians don't have to pay attention to the crossing signals at lights!

Again, **not true!** Pedestrians absolutely must pay attention to the signals at lights, and that is addressed in ARS 28-646

A. If special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words “walk” or “don't walk” or a symbol of a walking person that symbolizes the word “walk” or a symbol of an upraised hand that symbolizes the words “don't walk” are in place, the signals shall indicate as follows:

1. Walk or a symbol of a walking person. Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of vehicles.

2. Don't walk or a symbol of an upraised hand. A pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the don't walk signal is showing.

B. A pedestrian shall not loiter or unduly delay crossing the roadway after traffic has stopped to give the right-of-way.

# 911 Education Month

By: Michelle DeVault, Communications Manager, Oro Valley Police Department



## “9-1-1 What Are You Reporting?”

This is the first thing you will hear when you call for help during an emergency, but did you know that was not always the case? It was only 48 years ago that 9-1-1 became the designated “Universal Emergency Number” for citizens throughout the United States to request emergency assistance.

On February 16, 1968, Senator Rankin Fite completed the first 9-1-1 call made in the United States in Haleyville, Alabama. In 1987, only 50% of the US population had access to 9-1-1. Today, over 96% of the country is covered by some type of 9-1-1 service.

## Do you know when to call 9-1-1?

9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should only be dialing 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire, or medical assistance. If you aren't sure if your situation is an emergency, you should err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1.

## You dialed 9-1-1, now what?

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...

The location of the emergency is probably the most important piece of information you can provide when calling 9-1-1. People often take for granted that 9-1-1 call takers know exactly where they are calling from, but this isn't always the case, especially when dialing from a cell phone or a VOIP phone. If you are outside and don't know the street address, take a look around and try to find landmarks or cross streets. If you are inside a large building or one with multiple levels, you can help emergency services by letting them know which floor you are on, which apartment you are in, etc.

DON'T HANG UP!

Stay on the line and tell the call taker if your call was an accident. If you are unable to speak, set the phone down and off the hook. The 9-1-1 call taker may be able to get important information regarding your location and situation you are in just by listening to what's happening on the other end of the line.

STAY CALM

When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. Even though you may want to, try not to panic. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you are able to stay strong and answer all of the 9-1-1 operator's questions, they can get help to you faster.

# 911 Education Month Continued

## REMINDER:

Educate your children about 9-1-1. You never know when they will have to call on your behalf. Make sure your kids understand how to dial 9-1-1 and the important information they will need to relay such as name, address & phone number. You can find more information to educate your children about 9-1-1 here:

[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/911pubedresources/making\\_911\\_parents\\_1.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/911pubedresources/making_911_parents_1.pdf)

[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/911pubedresources/making\\_911\\_kids\\_1.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/911pubedresources/making_911_kids_1.pdf)

**National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 10 – 16, 2016**



CodeRED is a FREE emergency notification service provided to all residents within Oro Valley that will notify you of emergency information through phone calls, text messages, emails and social media. The system will be used to keep you informed of local events that may immediately impact your safety.

CodeRED will be used to disseminate any message regarding the safety, property or welfare of the community. These may include AMBER alerts, notifications of hazardous traffic or road conditions, boil water advisories or evacuation notices.

The CodeRED database contains information received from public databases, including regional phonebooks. However, no resident should assume that their information is in the system. As a local resident, the Oro Valley Police Department encourages you to take action and register your cell phone for this service and verify your home and/or business location during the enrollment process so we may target notifications that directly impact your home or business. The home page of the Oro Valley Police Department's website, [www.ovpd.org/code-red](http://www.ovpd.org/code-red), has a link to the CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment page where you can register online. If you cannot register online, you can call 520-229-4927 and speak with one of our communications specialists to complete your registration over the telephone.

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# CPTED Territoriality

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One of the many terrific programs that the Oro Valley Police Department offers is the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program which follows five principles. Over the next several issues of Crime Fighter, we're going to talk about one of these in detail. But first, a little about CPTED!

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is defined as a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior and nuisance activity through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence decisions that precede criminal acts and nuisance activity through proper design, effective use and maintenance of the built, social and administrative environment. Realizing that there is a direct relationship between the physical environment, behavior of people, productive use of space and crime/loss prevention, CPTED has these five principles:

1. Territoriality
2. Natural Surveillance
3. Access Control
4. Activity Support
5. Maintenance

CPTED based strategies emphasize enhancing the perceived risk of detection and apprehension.

Research into criminal behavior indicates that the decision to offend or not to offend is more influenced by cues to the perceived risk of being caught than by cues to reward or ease of entry. Behavior effects can be accomplished by reducing the propensity of the physical environment to support criminal behaviors.

## CPTED Principles

The first of these is territoriality.

Territoriality is a design concept that clearly delineates private space from semipublic and public spaces and also creates a sense of ownership. Ownership thereby creates an environment where appearances of such strangers and intruders stand out and are more easily identified through:

1. The enhanced feeling of legitimate ownership by reinforcing existing natural surveillance and natural access control strategies with additional symbolic or social ones
2. The design of space to allow for its continued use and intended purpose
3. The use of pavement treatments, signage, landscaping, art, signage, screening and fences to define and outline ownership of space

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# CPTED Territoriality Continued

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These are just a few of the main principles of territoriality. The important thing that you want to convey with this is giving a sense of ownership to a space. Not that it's walled off with like a fortress, but that it's looked after and cared for. By following this one simple principle, you can start to have an impact on crime just through basic things in your neighborhood!

A good examples of an area that looks cared for:

This is a terrific example from our very own town of an area that looks like it's cared for and looked after.



Below is an example about 15 minutes away that looks nothing like it.



Clearly you can see a difference.

Of these two pictures, ask yourself, which one looks inviting for people to go and enjoy? Which area looks like it's taken care of? Which area is where you want to live?



# Dispose-A-Med Oro Valley

## Clean out your medicine cabinets

*Bring your unused or expired prescription and over the counter medications and we will dispose of them for you properly. We accept pills and liquids.*

This includes veterinarian medications and vitamins. Please keep all pills in their original containers. Bins will be provided for you to drop off your medications and it is completely anonymous. Please do NOT bring batteries or household hazardous waste.

Upcoming prescription-take-back events in 2016:

| <b>Target</b><br>10555 N. Oracle Road<br>10 am - 2 pm | <b>Walmart</b><br>7951 N. Oracle Road<br>10 am - 2 pm | <b>Sun City Oro Valley</b><br>1495 E. Rancho Vistoso<br>9 - 11 am |
|---|---|---|
| 02/06/16  | 04/02/16  | 03/08/16  |
| 08/06/16  | 06/04/16  | 09/13/16  |
| 10/16/16  | 12/03/16  | 11/08/16  |



*We will no longer be accepting metal or glass inhalation aerosol containers, syringes or epi-pens. For your convenience, the following is a list of companies that offer mail back disposal kits for a fee:*

|                                      |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Target</b><br>Pharmacy Department | <b>Total Home Medical</b><br><a href="http://www.totalhomemedical.com">www.totalhomemedical.com</a> | <b>Stericycle</b><br><a href="http://www.stericycle.com">www.stericycle.com</a> | <b>Republic Services</b><br><a href="http://www.republicsharps.com">www.republicsharps.com</a> |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|



**For more information contact the OVPD Community Resource Unit, at (520) 229-5080**

# Mark Your Calendar

## Dispose-A-Med

Sun City Oro Valley - 1495 E. Rancho Vistoso

March 8 9 - 11 am

Walmart - 7951 N. Oracle Road

April 2 10 am - 2 pm

## Arizona Distance Classic

March 20 - LOOK OUT FOR RUNNERS

## Oro Valley Sprint Triathlon

March 26



# Fun facts about Teddy Roosevelt



The Real Most Interesting Man in The World

Only man to get both the Medal of Honor (earned during combat) and Nobel Peace Prize (for advancing peace).

His son would also go on to earn the Medal of Honor, and was a general.

Was a New York City Police Commissioner who would patrol at night checking on his officers.

At age 53 he was shot in the chest, assessed his own physical condition, then gave a two hour speech anyway. He started it off with, "I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot. It takes more than that to kill a bull moose." The bullet would remain lodged in his chest for the rest of his life.

At age 23 he authored a book called The Naval War of 1812 that became the standard for studying wars, complete with drawings, graphs, and volumes of research.

He was inducted in to the Royal Society of London after he led a group to the summit of Mont Blanc in 1886.

He despised the name "Teddy," and preferred to be called "Colonel Roosevelt."

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**Like the Chief on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ChiefSharp](http://www.facebook.com/ChiefSharp)

**Follow us on Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/OroValleyPD](http://www.twitter.com/OroValleyPD)

**Add our Android or iPhone App, MyPD available in the Android Market or App Store.**

**Oro Valley  
POLICE**

[www.ovpd.org](http://www.ovpd.org)

## Contact Information

### OVPD Crime

### Prevention Unit

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