

NATI NEWSWIRE

SENIOR SAFETY ISSUES

Paper shredding, medication disposal for seniors

Macomb County senior citizens have a chance to properly dispose of unneeded medications and shred personal papers and documents to keep them out of the wrong hands. The Macomb County Senior Citizen Services Department, Health Department and Sheriffs Office are teaming up for the shredding and medication disposal day from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, in the parking lot of the VerKuilen Building, 21885 Dunham Road in Clinton Township.

Shredding documents and papers with vital personal or financial information is recommended to combat identity theft. Absolute Shreds, a mobile shredding company, will be available to shred unwanted personal documents. This free program is for people age 60 and older and is for personal papers only. No more than four file-size boxes per family will be accepted for shredding. Proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications keeps potentially harmful substances out of ground and surface waters. Seniors visiting this event will be able to properly dispose of narcotic, non-narcotic medications and other pills. Representatives of the Health Department's Environmental Health Division and a deputy from the Sheriffs Office will be on hand to facilitate the disposal.

Pills must be removed from bottles and placed in a clear plastic bag. Controlled substances such as narcotic painkillers must be kept in a separate plastic bag.

For more information, call Cathy Wilson of the Senior Citizen Services Department at (586) 469-6307.

The Macomb County Department of Senior Citizen Services is sponsored by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and receives county funds for all services, as well as funds from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, state appropriations, the Older American Act and the Family Independence Agency.

D.A. STANLEY CREATES ELDER DEATH REVIEW TEAM

By Staff Lompoc Record, CA

In an effort to better investigate incidents of elder abuse and neglect, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney has created a Elder Death Review Team.

The team — made up of law enforcement, Public Health and Adult Protective Services — is meant to foster the exchange of information between law enforcement and social service agencies to ensure quality investigations into the deaths of elderly county residents, according to a statement released by the District Attorney's Office.

"The end result will be a strengthening of the collaboration between each of the agencies and will serve to help to prevent future abuse of elder and dependent adults," said District Attorney Christie Stanley in a written statement.

The team is expected to meet monthly for the first six months. The first meeting is slated for Sept. 25 in Solvang.

SOCIAL WORKER IN N.J. GETS THREE YEARS IN PRISON

A social worker in Cumberland County, NJ., was sentenced yesterday to three years in prison for stealing the life's savings of a nursing home patient, authorities said.

Alexander Gotay, 46, of Egg Harbor City, admitted in July that he took \$70,000 from a patient at the Lincoln Specialty Care Center in Vineland.

Gotay said he withdrew the money from her bank accounts between August 2002 and January 2005, and stole the proceeds from the sale of her former home, said Kelly Cary, spokesperson for New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram. The patient has since died. Gotay also was ordered to pay \$70,000 in restitution to her estate, Cary said. - Sam Wood

Web Site of the Month:

Hot Scams – what kind of scam do you want...from lottery to love scams... check it out

<http://www.hotscams.com/>

Everything you always wanted to know about scams

Lottery Scam Claims Another Victim

Losses top \$100,000A 75-year-old man lost his home after falling victim to a Canadian lottery scam. It cost him more than \$100,000 and he wants his loss to serve as a warning to others.

"Like a fool, I was sending money to them rather making my house payments and the loan company wasn't very cooperative and they repossessed the house," he said.

For two years, the scam artists promised the man millions if he paid taxes and fees. They kept calling for more and gave him nothing except false hope.

The victim says, "I did tell them I was about to lose my house and I did lose my house. Well they said, 'don't worry about it. You can buy a bigger one with all this money coming.'"

This is the second recent story that has surfaced about a Nebraska retiree losing money in the Canadian lottery scam. In an earlier case a victim lost \$90,000.

Postal Inspector Dave Margritz says the large amounts being lost by victims are startling and he says the cons are like sharks that sense blood in the water.

Margritz says, "Once they get somebody, they will reload and if they get that person they'll go after them big time to get as much as they can before running them dry."

Money wired to Canada or other foreign countries usually can't be retrieved and suspects are seldom arrested.

When the latest victim's daughter noticed a call from Montreal on her father's phone bill, she knew he was being targeted again.

She says, "If anything, it's brought us closer because we had to work through big problems the last year."

The daughter watches her father's finances now and protects his retirement check to pay rent.

It's a lesson for any family member, especially those who have a retired relative living alone. Ask to check their finances and their phone bill. Calls from Canada or a foreign country should raise a red flag.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/9866146.html>

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announces the availability of [Victim Assistance Training Online](#).

This new web based training combines core competencies and basic skills needed by victim service providers to effectively and sensitively assist victims of crime. Designed for new victim service providers as well as for those who would like to refresh their skills and update information, the online format provides this training opportunity at a time and place convenient to the learner.

VAT *Online* includes seven training modules, which cover the following topics:

1. Training goals and how to navigate the online training
2. Basic issues that form the foundation for victim services, including ethics and cultural competency
3. Information on 14 types of crimes: characteristics, prevalence, and more
4. Core skills needed by victim service providers, including establishing rapport, problem solving, and crisis intervention
5. Specific topics and skills needed to serve diverse populations
6. Information on how to collaborate with various systems, including community-, criminal justice-, faith-, and reservation-based systems
7. Challenging situations—and successful strategies—for victim service providers

VAT *Online* was created by Cicatelli Associates, Inc. in partnership with the National Center for Victims of Crime and Safe Horizons with funding from OVC.

For assistance with technical issues, contact the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) at VATOnline@ovcttac.org or at 1-866-682-8822 (TTY: 1-866-682-8880).

Funding Opportunity for your Program

RMS and NATI provide funding opportunities for Triads, Domestic Violence, and other projects. To participate, RMS requests that your organization collect used cell phones and contact them at: **911CellphoneBank.com** or **terrih@sheriffs.org** RMS pays for shipping phones to them and returns usable cell phones to: law enforcement, senior programs, and domestic violence organizations—to provide cell phones to those in need in your community. Salable phones are recycled, with funds being returned to your organization. Contact RMS or NATI today.

1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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More Senior Safety related articles are located at www.nationaltriad.org; e-news section

2 ON TRIAL IN CASE OF ELDERLY

By Dennis Sullivan Copyright © 2007, [Chicago Tribune](#)

The wife of former Joliet Fire Chief Joseph Drick racked up nearly \$2,500 in financial penalties when she prematurely closed out certificates of deposit owned by an elderly Joliet woman, prosecutors showed Thursday in the trial of Joseph Drick and his wife, Cheri.

First Midwest Bank applied the penalties on the seven CDs, which netted nearly \$519,000, a legal processor testified in the seventh day of the Dricks' Will County trial. The CDs were opened by Gladys Farrington, who granted Cheri Drick power of attorney in February 2003 after knowing her for only a few months. Cheri Drick redeemed the CDs on March 6, 2003, and deposited the money into a joint checking account.

Farrington was 85 in 2005 when she died of Alzheimer's disease. The Dricks are charged with theft by deception, financial exploitation of an elderly person and conspiracy to commit financial exploitation of an elderly person.

Prosecutors claim Joseph Drick benefited from his wife's acquisition of nearly \$200,000 from Farrington, whose estate had an estimated value of between \$1.1 million and \$1.5 million. Defense attorneys contend Cheri Drick illegally manipulated Farrington's money, citing the power of attorney and Cheri Drick's status as joint holder of Farrington's checking account.

Under questioning by Assistant State's Atty. Chris Koch, legal processor Krista Carlson confirmed transactions on Farrington's checking account that turned into a joint account with Cheri Drick in early March 2003.

Jurors reviewed nearly 100 checks from the account during the period from late 2002 until early 2004. The activity showed Farrington first as the sole account holder.

Farrington continued to write checks to pay her bills shortly after Cheri Drick joined the account. Cheri Drick, meanwhile, began writing checks that appeared to have little, if nothing, to do with Farrington.

Copies of checks signed by Cheri Drick included a \$17,000 transaction to DES, or Drick Educational Services, Joseph Drick's consulting business. Gradually Cheri Drick assumed full control of the account, although Farrington's name remained on it.

In the afternoon, jurors got a closer look at some of Cheri Drick's transactions, including a down payment on a mausoleum at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Joliet for her and her husband. Evidence included a copy of the contract that included what appeared to be the signatures of both Cheri and Joseph Drick.

Doug DeBoer, Joseph Drick's attorney, argued Cheri had signed Joseph's name, pointing to a mark he said was her initials. At DeBoer's request, Judge Robert Livas allowed jurors to examine the copy of the document. They got a second look at it a few minutes later at the request of Assistant State's Atty. Kathleen Patton, who asked them, "Don't the signatures look different?"

SCAM ARTIST PAYS PRICE

He gets 51/2 years and must pay restitution for bilking the elderly *By KEVIN GRAHAM, Times Staff Writer*

TAMPA - More than a dozen elderly victims will receive part of \$200,000 in restitution from a man who pleaded guilty Monday to managing a telemarketing lottery scam. Vasilios "Billy" Kolitsidas, 38, was sentenced to just over 51/2 years in prison by U.S. District Judge James S. Moody Jr.

The judge gave Kolitsidas credit for time served in a Canadian prison while he awaited extradition to the United States on charges of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and money laundering. He must serve another 21 months to complete his sentence. As part of a plea agreement, Kolitsidas turned over \$200,000 in restitution. His attorney gave prosecutors a check at the hearing. He also must forfeit another \$337,000.

Kolitsidas pleaded guilty to his role in a sweepstakes and lottery scheme that scammed more than \$1.6-million from victims across Florida and in South Carolina.

An indictment charged him and Serges Jacques Descent, also known as Jack Descent, with persuading 14 people to turn over thousands of dollars in fees and taxes between October 1998 and September 1999 for winnings that never existed.

"I would like to take this time to apologize sincerely to all the victims and their families that were involved, and for all their unjustly suffering," Kolitsidas told the judge. The telemarketing firm targeted older people who had previously entered sweepstakes contest or been the victims of fraud. The men said they were calling on behalf of the Canadian government, pretending to disburse winnings, prosecutors said.

The catch: taxes and fees had to be paid first.

The men would have the victims send checks to an address in Montreal and a St. Petersburg address to a company called Group Crown International Inc.

In one scam detailed in court papers, 79-year-old Ada Korf was told she won more than \$1-million.

She sent four checks totaling \$429,000 to the St. Petersburg address and was told if her bank asked about the money, to say she was investing in Florida real estate.

Descent, who Kolitsidas said approached him about "investing," is serving 10 years in prison.

Kevin Graham can be reached at 813 226-3433 or kgraham@sptimes.com.

The NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE has been recreated! Please look over the new web site and information:

PHONE: (302) 831-3525

E-MAIL: Ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov

WEB SITE: www.ncea.aoa.gov

1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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