



NATI NEWSWIRE

OHIO MAN SENTENCED IN NURSING HOME SEX ABUSE

SANDUSKY, Ohio (AP) — A former night shift nurse accused of sexually abusing patients at northwest Ohio nursing homes entered a plea arrangement to avoid trial and has been sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison.

John Riems entered an Alford plea Friday evening to four counts of sexual battery and one count of gross sexual imposition. In an Alford plea, a defendant acknowledges there is enough evidence for a conviction but does not admit guilt.

"I do maintain my innocence, but I want to avoid the trauma of a trial," said Riems. "The people who know me know these things are not true."

Judge Tygh Tone handed down the sentence, which prosecutor Kevin Baxter and Riems' attorney agreed upon.

Riems, 50, was videotaped last January telling authorities that he abused about 100 patients at various nursing homes since the 1980s. Tone had ruled Thursday that prosecutors could use the video in Riems' trial, which was scheduled to begin Tuesday.

Defense attorney Troy Wisheart had tried to keep the videotape out of the trial. He argued that Riems was coerced into the confession by aggressive detectives.

Linda Monegan, the fiancée of one of Riems' victims, called him an "ancient evil spirit of torment."

Joe Bilgen, whose late father also was a victim, compared the crimes to child abuse because the patients abused had similar states of mind.

"I don't think that anyone knows the hurt and the anger that I am holding for you," Bilgen said to Riems during the sentencing hearing. "It's something that I will never forgive you for."

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Man accused of conning senior out of money, meds

By **RICK YENCER** ryencer@muncie.gannett.com

MUNCIE -- A Muncie man already facing nine felony charges has been arrested again, now accused of conning an 82-year-old woman out of her money and medication while wearing a sheriff's baseball cap.

Tyler Skye McDaniel, 39, is set to stand trial March 17 in Delaware Circuit Court 5 on four counts of fraud, two counts each of forgery and theft, and receiving stolen property, all filed since last May.

His most recent arrest came early Sunday outside a home in the 2300 block of North Ault Avenue, after the victim reported someone had broken into her garage just after midnight.

Police detective Melissa Pease said McDaniel, wearing a black baseball cap with the word "sheriff," had earlier arrived at the senior citizen's door and identified himself as a member of the neighborhood crime watch.

When police arrived, they found McDaniel leaving the victim's house. His alleged accomplice, a 15-year-old juvenile, was waiting inside a SUV parked in the victim's driveway.

A search of the suspects found McDaniel with two prescription medication bottles belonging to the victim, according to police, while the juvenile had cash in his wallet. The victim said she was missing at least \$50.

McDaniel was being held in the Delaware County jail Monday without bond, preliminarily charged with burglary and impersonating a public servant.

The teen was taken to the juvenile detention center, facing a burglary charge.

The victim believed McDaniel worked for the sheriff's department based on his vehicle, the cap and comments he made about the crime watch, according to a police report. McDaniel, a plumber who lives in the 2200 block of North Watt Avenue, is also accused of stealing guns and other property from the homes of neighbors.

He was arrested Dec. 19 after being accused of breaking into a locked office and safe at the southside convenience store where he worked.

McDaniel was preliminarily charged with burglary and receiving stolen property in connection with the break-in at the Hoosier Pete store at 2535 S. Hoyt Ave. Formal charges in that case have yet to be filed, however.

What is the difference between a ponzi scheme and a pyramid scheme?

Ponzi schemes have many similarities to pyramid schemes and many people use the terms interchangeably. Just like a ponzi scheme, a pyramid scheme is a form of fraud relying on false financial information, including the promise of an extremely high rate of return, but they do have some differences...

In a ponzi scheme, the scam artist acts as "base" for the victims, interacting with all of them directly. In a pyramid scheme, those who recruit additional participants benefit directly and failure to recruit usually means they make no money and get no other real benefits.

A Ponzi scheme claims to rely on some hidden, restricted, or insider investment approach and often attracts investors who have money to spend. Pyramid schemes are open to the fact that money from new recruits will be the source of payout for the initial investors.

A pyramid scheme will typically collapse much faster because of the necessity of exponential increases in participants to sustain it. However, ponzi schemes can survive a long time simply by persuading most existing participants to reinvest their money, so a relatively small number of new participants are needed. www.ROCKLANDCOUNTYTRIAD.org

Safer Seniors and Safer Roads

Reporter: Kristina Hamilton

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Some Walton County seniors had their [cars](#) checked out Saturday so they and everyone else on the road will be a little bit safer.

According to the Department of Elder Affairs, people over 65 are the fastest-growing population in the U.S. Saturday's free event was held at the Life Enrichment Senior Center in DeFuniak Springs.

"Car-Fit" is an educational program that helps older drivers improve the "fit of their [vehicles](#) for safety and comfort.

Besides conducting a 12-point checklist of [car](#) safety an occupational therapist was there to talk to the older people about maintaining and strengthening their driving health.

The free event was sponsored by Walton County's Community for a Lifetime Committee through the Department of Elder Affairs.

For more information you can call them at 892-8530.

'SILVER ALERT' KEYED TO LOST SENIOR CITIZENS

By John Byrne Post-Tribune staff writer

INDIANAPOLIS -- A proposed "Silver Alert" system that would help police and media outlets respond quickly if a senior citizen gets lost had a hearing Wednesday.

As Indiana's population ages, Sen. Ed Charbonneau said, the state must prepare to deal with many more people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and the confusion that accompanies it.

"We have to get ready for this now," Charbonneau said.

Under current law, it is difficult for law enforcement agencies to mobilize to look for a missing adult who has not committed any crime.

Charbonneau's bill would create a network similar to the Amber Alert system that allows agencies to post information rapidly about missing or abducted children on highway signs and television and radio newscasts.

Charbonneau, who served as CEO of The Methodist Hospitals until shortly after joining the Senate in 2007, said incidents at the hospital brought the importance of this legislation to his attention.

He declined to discuss specifics, but in February 2008, Alzheimer's patient Frances Ferguson wandered away from Methodist's Southlake campus in Merrillville and died of hypothermia before she could be located.

"The hospital has its own silver alert system in place," said Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso.

Sen. Earline Rogers, who sits with Charbonneau on the Senate's Health and Provider Services Committee, said the bill is "undeniably important."

But she noted state police officials have expressed concerns the Silver Alert program could dilute the effectiveness of Amber Alerts.

The committee will revisit the proposal at a hearing next week.

Website of the Month

www.nationaltriad.org

Have you updated your Triad or S.A.L.T. contact list since you've given us the information? We encourage you to visit, to check your Triad information online, and to contact us should you need to change any information. Remember, only by sharing your knowledge can we shape the future of Triad!

More Senior Safety related articles are located at www.nationaltriad.org; e-news section

Start a Drug Disposal Program Today!

By Betsy Cantrell, Maine

The Merrymeeting Bay Triad (Bath-Brunswick area in Maine) co-sponsored with the Board of Health, local hospital, all law enforcement in the area, Elder Abuse Task Force, and others a very successful med collection day three years ago. Since then, we have sponsored six additional collections, each time receiving more and more over-the-counter and prescription drugs as well as personal care products. We initiated this as a crime prevention measure, and quickly learned about the significant environmental danger of using the traditional methods of disposal - trashing or flushing.

We're trying to cross our t's and dot our i's, are carefully supervised by Maine DEP and are getting great community cooperation.

The first year we collected at one site, the hospital, and pharmacists and nurses counted every single pill. We sorted the items by controlled and non-controlled substances, the latter going to state DEA for destruction and the other items collected by a company hospitals use to dispose of medical waste.

We have learned that only a few incinerators in the nation are capable of adequately incinerating modern medications (for a variety of valid reasons) so our "stuff" goes either to NJ or Ohio each time. And there is a fee for disposal. This is now a semi-annual event, and each time we collect more: last time we had 6 55-gallon drums of non-controlled meds and personal care products plus two huge heavy boxes of pain killers and other powerful drugs which are controlled. DOJ funding through the area Weed & Seed program has helped with the cost of disposal - about \$4,000 last time.

We now collect at four different sites each time and have added an evening collection time also. Each site is manned by two uniformed law enforcement officers for security purposes - just in case. A team of volunteers handles welcoming those coming with bags of meds, distributing educational information, and getting each person to fill out a simple survey about whose drugs they're bringing (friend/family/self, etc.) and about how

long they've had them, etc.

We think this is a worthwhile Triad endeavor for a variety of reasons. Questions? Please let me know!

Betsy Cantrell—Bath, Maine

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8-week academy offers citizens sample of police work

By [Elizabeth Dinan](#)

PORTSMOUTH — A crash course in police work will be offered at no charge during the second annual Citizens Police Academy, sponsored by Crime Stoppers and hosted by the city's police department.

"Everyone wants to know what police officers do," said detective Tom Grella, who serves as the department's juvenile prosecutor and Crime Stoppers police coordinator. "Often the public's only contact with police officers is when they need them."

Beginning March 18, the once weekly course will "offer a snippet of police work," said Grella, adding "we pack it in."

Proof is found in the agenda which shows most classes offering a combination of classroom study, demonstrations of police gear and operations, and a tour of a law enforcement facility. Participants will tour the Portsmouth, Newington, Greenland, Rye and New Castle police departments, visit the Rockingham County House of Corrections, Coast Guard headquarters and meet with District Court Judge Sawako Gardner. They'll also see demonstrations of Breathalyzers, Tazers, radar and the city's police dogs, bicycles and motorcycles.

Grella said participants in last year's Citizen's Academy included college students, business people, a bartender, senior citizens and family members of city police employees.

"This can help make their own communities crime free," he said. "They can learn from us, and us from them."

The 8-week academy includes sessions on March 18, 25, April 1, 15, 22, 29 and May 6. Participants are expected to attend two hours in a court as observers and four hours of ride alongs with an officer.

A graduation ceremony is May 6 and certificates of completion are awarded.

For more information, call Grella at 610-7429 or e-mail inquires to Citizenspoliceacademy@pd.cityofportsmouth.com or visit the [Crime Stoppers Web site](#).

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FRESNO OFFICIALS MAKE SAFETY OF SENIOR CITIZENS A PRIORITY

Mayor, police chief offer info to protect elderly from crime.

By George Hostetter / The Fresno Bee

More than 90 volunteers and several top city of Fresno officials spent a good part of Saturday educating seniors about how to protect themselves from crime and elder abuse.

"Safety makes everything else possible," Mayor Ashley Swearingin told about 100 seniors gathered in the community center at Senior Citizen Village in southeast Fresno. "If we don't have safe neighborhoods, we can't advance on our other priorities."

The meeting kicked off a city campaign to improve the safety of seniors throughout Fresno. Council Member Mike Dages, who represents southeast Fresno, also spoke.

Police Chief Jerry Dyer drew gasps from Senior Citizen Village residents as he recited 2008 crime statistics against Fresno's elderly. They included nearly 2,200 property crimes, 31 strong-armed robberies, 20 armed robberies, 16 grand thefts and one murder.

"This is the bad news," Dyer said. "The good news is we're going to do something about it."

To begin, Dyer said, Fresno's seniors may arrange to have Police Department-trained volunteers inspect their homes free of charge to determine how they can be made more secure against criminals.

The improvements may be something as simple as new locks on doors and windows, Dyer said. The improvements will be funded by the Fresno Police Chief's Foundation, he said.

The Police Department also will step up its education efforts and is considering use of surveillance video cameras in places with high concentrations of seniors, Dyer said.

"All of you folks have given so much of your life to taking care of all of us," Dyer said. "... The least we can do is repay you."

Annabelle Goshtigian, 77, was among those sitting in the audience. She liked what she heard.

"I think it's terrific," said Goshtigian, who has lived at Senior Citizen Village for more than 14 years. "It's to help seniors in knowing what to do."

After the brief meeting in the community center, Swearingin, Dyer and the volunteers fanned out among Senior Citizen Village's more than 700 homes. They knocked on doors, arranged home inspections and handed out brochures.

Standing next to his front door, Woody Miller, 81,

said he liked seeing the mayor and the police chief discussing such an important issue with seniors face-to-face.

"That's what they need to do," Miller said.

Ruth Cavanah, 78, said she's going to schedule a home inspection.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," Cavanah said. "I've lived a long time and I'm conscious of these things. But a lot of these people aren't. Some will open their door for anybody."

Man charged with raping fellow patient at Elgin nursing home

by Gene Haschak | Daily Herald Staff

A 21-year-old man is being held in the Kane County jail on charges he raped a 69-year-old woman at Maplewood Care, a nursing home in Elgin, where both are residents.

Christopher Shelton was charged over the weekend with one count of class one criminal sexual assault, one count of aggravated criminal sexual assault (with bodily harm) and one count of aggravated criminal sexual assault of a victim older than 60, according to Kane County court records.

Elgin police said they were called to the Maplewood Care Center at 1 a.m. Saturday where they found the female resident of the nursing facility who had been assaulted.

Police said Shelton, who is a resident and not an employee of the facility, was found hiding in her bathroom.

Deputy Police Chief Jeff Swoboda said he couldn't provide any more information about the case or Shelton because the case still is under investigation.

Kane County court records show no previous record for Shelton.

Calls to the administrator of the Maplewood Care Center were not returned Tuesday. Shelton's bond was set at 10 percent of \$500,000. His next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 30 at the Kane County Judicial Center.

MAN POSING AS CICERO TOWN WORKER TRIES TO ENTER SENIOR'S HOME

Tribune staff report

A man claiming to be from the [Cicero](#) Water Department tried to persuade a senior citizen to allow him entry into a house on the afternoon of Jan. 19 near 1900 S. 57th Ct. in Cicero. The victim closed the door on the man after he threatened to shut her water off for 72 hours for not allowing him inside, police said.

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