

Media Release

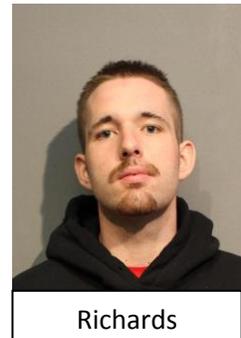
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July 8, 2014

Recent Incidents Overview – Fraud and Weapons Violation Involving a Minor

Humboldt: SUSPECT SWINDLES HIS GRANDMOTHER – On July 7, 2014, deputies were dispatched to a bank in Prescott Valley regarding possible check fraud. Upon arrival, deputies met with the 74-year-old victim who told them her grandson, 21-year-old Forrest Richards, had forged checks resulting in a loss in excess of \$1000.



Deputies examined at least 7 checks on the victim's account written out to Forrest Richards and signed using the victim's name. Comparing the signature on these checks to the victim's actual signature indicated the checks had been forged. The checks used were kept in the victim's bedroom. The victim believed Forrest had stolen and forged the checks over the last couple of weeks.

Deputies went to the victim's residence in Humboldt and located Richards. When deputies searched Richards, they found a spoon containing heroin residue and a syringe. During a follow-up interview, Richards admitted to the theft and forgery of his grandmother's checks. He indicated a drug addiction was the primary cause for needing cash. He was also found in possession of the victim's credit card.

Richards was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center on charges including seven counts each of Forgery, Fraud, Identity Theft, Theft, and one count involving the Theft of a Credit Card. He remains in-custody on a \$15,000 bond.

Seligman: FIREARMS VIOLATIONS – On June 28, 2014, a 16-year-old male was arrested for charges including Minor Carrying a Firearm, Disorderly Conduct with a Weapon, and Fire Ban Violation.

Around 7:15PM on June 28th, deputies were called to an area adjacent to West Rancho Vista Way in Seligman regarding a complaint of persons shooting near a residence. The victim had already confronted the group responsible and while doing so, obtained the license number for one of the quads and a photo of an apparent juvenile who was armed. Deputies eventually

located the 4 juveniles near Main Street in Seligman. One of the juveniles matched the armed juvenile in the photo. At this time, an adult was with the group. All the juveniles admitted being confronted by victim earlier and initially wanted to report threats from the victim. During separate interviews with each of the minors, they all denied specific threats. A 16-year-old suspect, who had been in possession of a handgun given to him by his grandfather, admitted shooting the handgun in a canyon area the previous day and did not believe he was creating any danger by his actions. The suspect also recalled being confronted by the victim at that time over concerns the rounds were noticeable near the victim's home.

On this day (June 28) the suspect was out shooting rabbits in the vicinity and was again confronted by the victim who asked him to stop because the activity was illegal and dangerous.

Once the interviews were completed, deputies told the suspect the victim was correct in expressing these concerns and advised the suspect he would be charged for the following violations - Minor Carrying a Firearm without a Responsible Adult Present, Disorderly Conduct with a Weapon, and a Violation of the Fire Ban. The suspect had shot numerous jack rabbits in the area that were left to decompose. Additionally, the suspect's general target background contained lots of rocks which greatly increased the chance of a ricochet towards occupied structures.

The case against the suspect was referred to the Juvenile Court for prosecution.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website: www.ycsoaz.gov