AZAPE.ORG
Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

April 2021
https://azape.org/

Lock and Key

I'm Back!!! It's been awhile, I know, but have no fear, I am here once again to help out this great Association of ours. I believe it is important for us to all work together (up to 122 members now) and help out where we can and when we can.

Just a quick intro for the new members out there. My name is Jason Michael and I've call El Mirage Police Department home for the last 13 years. Reason for my hiatus you should ask? I took some time away so that I could take care of some family issues plus I was going to school full time to complete a personal goal of mine in getting an Associates degree in criminal justice along with a couple of certifications dealing with crime scene operations. During my tenure at El Mirage PD, I have acquired several job responsibilities and felt I needed to hone my skills.

Please feel free in contacting myself (or any board member) with any questions, comments, articles of interest, or tricks of the trade. Sharing information helps build our Departments allowing for best practice principles. I have a lot to offer and am passionate about what I do. I feel there are a lot of you out there that enjoy doing what you do otherwise you wouldn't be in the Property and Evidence field.

If I don't know the answer I will try and find the answer.

Looking forward to hearing from you all and I hope you all enjoy this newsletter as well as the future ones to come. Take care and hopefully we will all be able to get together in the near future once all this craziness subsides.

Jason M.

Inside this issue

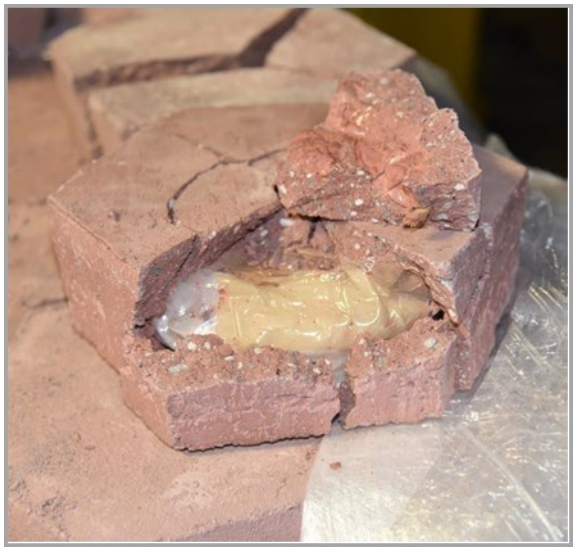
Meth Concealment 2
Info on Methamphetamine.....3
SUPERIOR Court Exhibits.....3
What your Chief should know.....4
Scam Alerts.....5
NARC GONE-C.....6
P.S.A. Used Sharps 7
AAPE Association Committees 7
Welcome Aboard 8
Healthy Recipe.....8
Funnies 9
Executive Board Officers 10
New Board Member (July 2021).10
Did you Know???.....10

Methamphetamine Shipment Concealed in Paving Stones

On August 7, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at the Laredo, Texas, Port of Entry seized 346 kilograms (761 lbs.) of methamphetamine from a tractor-trailer with a shipment of paving stones from Mexico. An inspection with CBP's Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII-Imaging) equipment revealed anomalies within the paving stones, and a physical inspection revealed that packages of methamphetamine were concealed inside. This concealment is novel because the traffickers cast the methamphetamine packages inside the individual stones as opposed to simply co-mingling them with the shipment.

Pallet of paving stones.

Individual stone.



Paving stone broken open.

Methamphetamine package inside.

Seizure information and photographs courtesy of the CBP Laredo Field Office.

Can you imagine having to store these in your warehouse???

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine comes in many different forms as shown below. It has been found in pill form, powder form, ice bags, and is used to speed up the body's system. Crystal meth resembles glass like fragments and is an altered version of prescription drugs that are cooked in meth labs with over the counter drugs. It is highly addictive, increases heart rate, body temperature, anxiety, and if high doses are taken it can cause convulsions or collapsing. Street names associated with the drug include: speed, ice, shards, biker's coffee, stove top, tweak, yaba, trash, chalk, crystal, crank, and shabu.

Law enforcement officials are seeing a dramatic increase in Methamphetamine flowing into the U.S. from across the Mexican border. Traffickers have turned to transporting methamphetamine into a liquid form. It is being carried in water bottles, thermos, and small round coolers. Here's a link that talks about the new trend:

https://addiction-treatment-services.com/illicit-drugs/meth/liquid-meth-on-the-rise/

If you encounter a substance you believe may be liquid meth, consider requesting a drug K9 and follow department policy. When in doubt, request a supervisor to respond.

Maricopa County Court Exhibits

When a trial in Superior Court ends, the exhibits maintained by the Clerk of Superior Court are kept until the end of a mandated retention period. Once that period of time has expired the Clerk will reach out to your agency to set up a date and time in which you can pick up those exhibits. A recent visit was made and found that many agencies are not picking up their exhibits or the Clerk of the Court does not have the correct contact number for your agency.

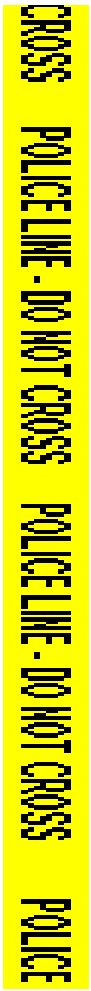
Please take the time to reach out to Donna Van Nostran so arrangements can be made.

Donna.VanNostran@Maricopa.Gov

We all know what it's like having to hold on to items with in our warehouse that we know is no longer needed. The Clerk of the Court would greatly appreciate your time and help.

For those agencies outside of the Maricopa County please ensure to check with your county courts to see if they have case exhibits for your Department.

What do you wish your Chief knew about your operations.



I recently had the opportunity in attending a webinar that was hosted by the Evidence Management Institute. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woLjMAZAHf8)

It was very interesting in that they talked about the operation within the Property and Evidence warehouse and what many Chiefs or Officers do not understand what is going on.

Some of the key topics that were discussed were:

- Change will not happen without your executive level support
- How much "stuff" do you really have?
- Is there proper accountability and are inventories being done
- What are the key performance indicators that show the success (or lack of) that can be presented to the Chief.
- Are solutions being provided to the Chief
- Finally, the costs involved with the operations

Some of the issues that, I feel, many agencies deal with are the management of the cases. How do we deal with those cases where the officer is no longer with the Department or the dispositions that are not being received? Another issue I have found is the impounding of certain types of evidence by an officer. What is truly "evidence" when it is being collected from the scene.

Property and Evidence Departments must have written policies and procedures that set these standards. Manuals need to be created to show the proper packaging techniques and we must be able to turn items away that are not properly packaged.

For the Smaller agencies out there—Do you have a contingency plan if something should happen to you? Would someone be able to come in and pick up where you left off should you win the lottery?

Officers must have an understanding as to the reasons why we have things done a certain way. It may take some effort but in the long run it'll make the operations easier for everyone with in the Property and Evidence Department as well as saving time and resources.

If you have questions or ideas on best practices please share.

Jason M.

Scam Alert—Malicious Mobile Apps in Disguise

Google recently removed a number of dangerous mobile applications (apps) from the Google Play store. These were disguised as generic VPN and audio control apps that appeared to be safe, but once installed, they tricked victims into allowing downloads from untrusted sources.

If you download a disguised app and fall victim to this scam, a dangerous piece of malicious software (malware) is installed on your device. The malware adds malicious code into your financial apps, giving the bad guys access to your banking and credit card accounts. Over time, cybercriminals use this malware to gain complete control over your device and use it however they please.

This is not the first time that malicious apps were found on Google Play or on the Apple app store—and it won't be the last. When you download applications, remember these tips:

- Read reviews and ratings for the app. Look for reviews that are critical or reviews with three stars or less, as these are less likely to be fake.
- Avoid apps with few or no reviews and apps that have a low number of downloads.
- Only download apps from trusted publishers. Remember, anyone can publish an app on official app stores— including cybercriminals.

Scam Alert—LinkedIn File Sharing

LinkedIn is a networking site used to connect with colleagues, employers, and other business contacts. Even though LinkedIn is designed for professionals, it is just as vulnerable as any other social media platform.

In a recent scam, cybercriminals use stolen LinkedIn accounts to message the contacts of those accounts. The message includes a link to a "LinkedInSecureMessage"—which is not a service that LinkedIn provides. The link takes you to an official-looking page that includes the LinkedIn logo and a "View Document" button. If you click the button, a phony LinkedIn login page opens. Information entered on this screen will be sent straight to the cybercriminals who will likely sell your account for use in similar social networking scams.

Don't fall for it! Remember these tips:

- Stay up-to-date on which features your accounts and platforms offer. For example, LinkedIn does not offer a file sharing feature.
- Never trust a link in a message that you were not expecting. If you think the notification could be legitimate, reach out to the sender by phone to be sure.

Remember that cybercriminals use more than just emails to phish for your information. **Always think before you click!**

NARC
ON DEMAND DRUG DESTRUCTION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
GONE HD

DON'T DELAY, DESTROY IT TODAY!

Made SPECIFICALLY for Law Enforcement

The only chemical destruction formula that handles both Schedule One AND prescription drugs in the same solution!

Heroin, Cocaine, Crack, MDMA, Meth & More
Unrecoverable destruction begins on contact.
Process complete within minutes!

SAFE | SIMPLE | QUICK | PORTABLE | DEA COMPLIANT

COST EFFECTIVE

★ Saves time ★ Saves money ★ Saves trips to the incinerator

- **Eliminates theft of drugs designated for destruction**
- Destroys illicit AND prescription drugs with one safe, affordable, and easy to employ solution
- Eliminates costly trips to the incinerator
- Eliminates time consuming compliance requirements regarding use of an incinerator

SAFE & SIMPLE TO USE

✓ No special training ✓ No special handling ✓ No special storage

- Container arrives half-full with patented liquid solution. Remainder to be filled with pills, powders & liquids
- Add drugs to container, replace lid & shake. Destruction begins on contact. Leave lid on until next use
- Continue destroying drugs with the simple "dump & shake" method until contents are *2"* from top.
- Next, add hardener packet(s), replace lid, & shake one final time. Process complete in 1 hour. Toss container into trash or recycling!
- Final product is solidified non-hazardous, activated carbon products. Safe for disposal in landfills.
- DEA & EPA compliant, eco-friendly, safe for humans & the environment
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) available. Shelf life: 5 years unopened, 1 year when opened.

EASY TO BUY

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM:

A.L. Distributing
www.aldistributing.net

And on amazon

Four Handy Sizes:	1/2 Gallon (64 oz.)	Capacity: 1,500 pills
	1 Gallon	Capacity: 3,000 pills
	2.5 Gallon	Capacity: 7,500 pills
	5 Gallon	Capacity: 15,000 pills
Narc Gone® - C (Destroys THC)	5 Gallon	Capacity: Varies

CASE QUANITIES AVAILABLE ON SOME SIZES

Made in the USA. Bottled in recyclable plastics

Questions? Contact: Jim Fleming / Business Development Manager / 708-203-6032 / jfleming@narc-gone.com

What to Do with Used Sharps in Arizona

Put used sharps in a strong, plastic container.

Have a needle clipper? When the needle clipper is full, it can be disposed of according to your state or local regulations.

Put the plastic container in the household trash - don't recycle!

https://safeneedledisposal.org/sharps-management/fda-cleared-sharps-containers/

Association Committees

Please consider joining one or more of the committees The committees are:

- Good and Welfare Committee (send well-wishing/ sympathy cards/flowers on behalf of the Association.
- Legislative Committee (monitors State legislative activities which may affect law enforcement agencies and specifically property/evidence related issues)
- Elections Committee (temporary committee, active only from December through March of an election cycle).
- Training Committee (coordinates and assists with the annual training seminar)
- Public Relations Committee (includes a Newsletter Editor, Website Monitor, Marketing Director and Historian).

The Association is only as good as the members who participate and contribute to help the Association meet its goals and the expectations of its members.

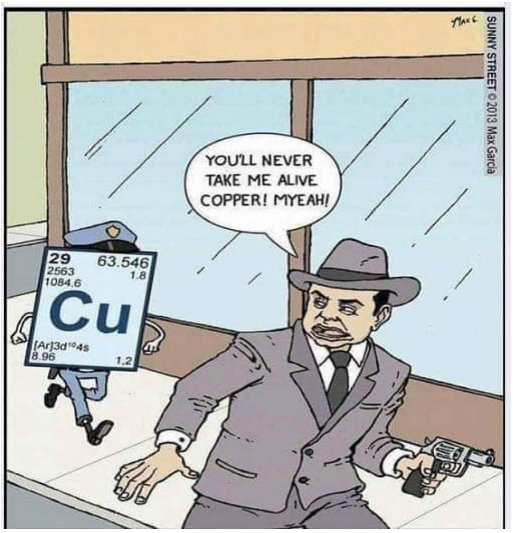
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF

Like to "Welcome" Luis Gonzalez from Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office as a new member to the association.

HEALTHY RECIPE: PROSCIUTTO-WRAPPED ASPARAGUS

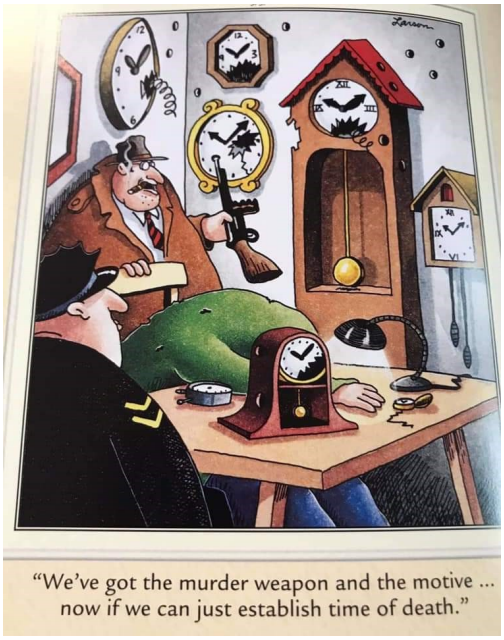
Ingredients:	Directions:
1 tablespoon olive oil	1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
1 pound asparagus spears	2. Wash and trim the rough ends off the asparagus.
Pinch of salt	3. Place asparagus on a sheet pan and drizzle with olive oil, salt, pepper. Toss well until asparagus is fully coated.
Pinch of black pepper	4. Evenly distribute the cheese onto the slices of prosciutto.
½ pound thinly sliced prosciutto	5. Place an asparagus spear onto each slice of prosciutto and roll it up.
1 ounce Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, grated	6. Arrange in a single layer on baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes.
	7. Top with more cheese if desired.

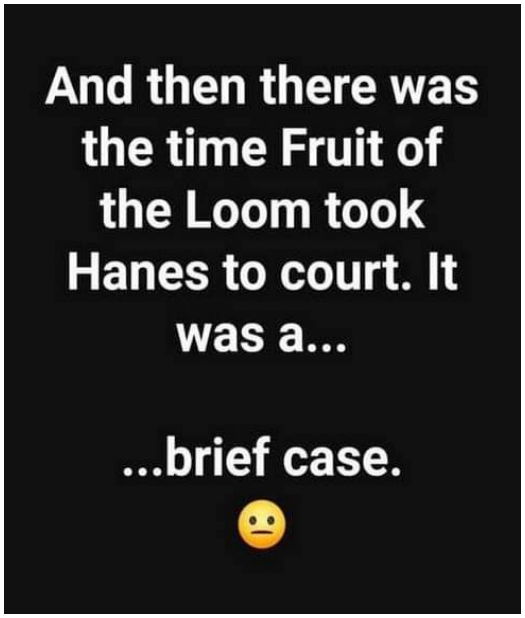
Funnies



Have an interesting story or unusual item that was brought in to your warehouse? Don't hold back… Share it…

Send your ideas, comments, photos, and interesting articles to: landknews@gmail.com





Arizona Association for Property and Evidence

The mission of the Arizona Association for Property and Evidence (AAPE) is to provide ways for property and evidence professionals in the State of Arizona to communicate with each other about common issues that affect the safety of property/evidence personnel and the security and integrity of the evidence they manage by promoting professionalism and exchanging information and ideas.

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SGT at Arms Roy Casto
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Congratulations to the NEW Board Members

March 2021 Election Results (New Board – July 2021-June 2023)

President – Carey Blackwell
1st VP – Lane Darling
2nd VP – Roy Casto
Treasurer – Maureen Marquez
Secretary – Deanna Manuel
Sgt at Arms – Sarah Welch

Did You Know???

In 1863 Wickenburg becomes the first town to be established in what is now Maricopa County, Arizona.
In 1871 the second building in Phoenix, a brewery, is constructed. *Priorities Right???*
In 1872 the population of Tucson is estimated at just over 3,500 residents. Today the population is around 982,000.