



# WEEKEND ROUNDUP - YAVAPAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Posted on June 12, 2024 by Kristin Greene, Public Affairs and Government Relations

Director | YCSO



*Photo: Medical Nitrous Oxide Canisters*

## **Man Arrested for Providing Nitrous Oxide to his Children**

On Wednesday June 4th YCSO took a child abuse report in Ash Fork from a woman who learned that her ex had been inhaling "laughing gas" with their 12- and 13-year-old sons while they were on visitation with him on Sunday. The mother learned of the incident(s) from her 16-year-old daughter who was not involved, but who saw a potentially incriminating video taken by one of the boys while out with the suspect showing them inhaling the gas from a balloon.

The mother and daughter confronted the suspect who allegedly admitted to providing laughing gas to the boys. YCSO detectives conducted detailed interviews the mother and the children learning that the gas inhaling incidents occurred repeatedly and near continuously for several hours as the suspect took them "4-wheeling" around the Ash Fork area, during which time it was reported one of the boys passed out but was not given medical help.

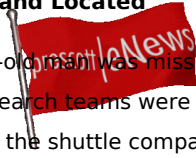
YCSO located the suspect in Cornville and following a search of his residence, numerous large canisters of Nitrous Oxide were located and balloons to inhale the drug. The man was arrested and charged with Child Abuse Endangerment; Possession of a Vapor-Releasing Substance Containing Toxic Substance; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Furnishing Harmful Items to Minors; Permitting Life Health or Morals to be Imperiled by Neglect, Abuse or Immoral Association; and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

## **Father Found Deceased in Creek After Hiking with Son**

Last evening just after 5:30 p.m. YCSO deputies responded to a call at Lawrence Crossing in Rimrock of a man deceased in the creek. By the time deputies arrived, EMTs were on scene as well as the victim's uncle who reported that the victim, identified as a 51-year-old man, and his 6-year-old son had come up from Tucson to camp in the area for a couple of days. The uncle said that a short time after the victim left his house, he called to say he was lost. The uncle drove to Lawrence Crossing, saw the victim's vehicle, and then walked down to the creek to find the victim face down in a few inches the water.

During the preliminary investigation, the 6-year-old son told YCSO detectives that his father fell backwards in the water, couldn't breathe, and "wouldn't get out". The understandably distressed child was taken home by local family members and will be reunited with his mother today. Detectives will continue the investigation into the tragedy.

## Two People with Dementia in Separate Cases Lost and Located



Early Saturday morning YCSO was alerted that a 67-year-old man was missing after having boarded a shuttle bus to the Phoenix Airport but never arrived for the flight. A silver alert and YCSO search teams were mobilized to locate the man who had last been seen at the Love's station in Cordes Lakes. It was later confirmed by the shuttle company that the man had boarded back on the bus in Cordes and did make it to the airport, however when he arrived the man decided to walk back to Flagstaff. The man's family said he was undiagnosed but believed he may be suffering from dementia.

Later that morning, YCSO received a report that the man had been found in Phoenix, with authorities in the Valley coordinating his return to his family.

On Sunday, it was reported that a 64-year-old woman with dementia was missing out of Black Canyon City after having left her home without her phone four hours prior. YCSO search teams and a drone operator were called out to respond, and after a few hours, YCSO dispatchers received information that the woman had been found at another home in Black Canyon City. She was returned to her boyfriend safely.