

NEWS ALERT

Home on S. Kiowa burglarized twice within 24 hours and Good Samaritan neighbor assaulted.

During the daytime of Wednesday, 24 Feb 2016 an Owner on the 3800-block of S. Kiowa walking his dog, observed one tall white male with dark hair in front of his neighbors house. This man was driving an older Jeep Cherokee or Wrangler vehicle with two-toned gray paint parked in the driveway of his next door neighbor. A narrow small trailer was also being towed that had aluminum-type siding slats. From the street they made eye contact but no verbal exchange took place. The neighbor, who knew the home has been unoccupied since its Owners passed away several years ago, contacted the surviving relative in Tucson and asked if she was having someone clean up the property. She said she had not requested this work. The neighbor called the Cochise County Sheriff who responded quickly but not before the individual had departed the area. The Sheriff's investigation determined the residence on Kiowa was forcibly broken into and totally ransacked and robbed of some of its more valuable contents. Damage to house and property is extensive. Every room, every personal possession, every drawer, every picture on the walls, all closets, and all furniture was the subject of damage. Debris in some rooms was piled high on the floor and prevented walking around. A scene common to the aftermath of a tornado. The lifetime mementos of a family was desecrated by heartless criminals and now lie on the floors. After

hours of crime scene investigation the Sheriff Deputies departed.

At mid-day on Thursday, 25 Feb 2016 the same neighbor observed a different car in the driveway next door and saw two males placing items being taken from the home into the trunk of a late-model four door Honda sedan. One male was Hispanic and the other is undefined. The neighbor approach them and was met at the foot of the driveway by the Hispanic man. The other man had entered their vehicle and drove onto Kiowa but in the direction of the cul-de-sac where he was forced to turn around. The neighbor asked the Hispanic man what they were doing and he responded in English with a heavy accent they were hired to clean out the home. The neighbor stated that he thought they were robbing the home at which time the man sucker punched the neighbor on the side of the face near his ear and ran away in the direction of the corner of S. Kiowa and S. Sioux where the other man and the vehicle were waiting. They drove off. The injured neighbor returned to his home and contacted Cochise County Sheriff again and they responded to this second robbery at the same home and now he scene of an assault crime.

This incident clearly demonstrates that we are vulnerable to such incidents and we must help each other in a safe and effective manner.

It is my belief, shared by the Cochise Sheriff Deputy that the following factors were at play here.

- a. A property was left unoccupied for an extended period of time and the outside grounds were neglected and thus a clear invitation to thieves that the property was likely unoccupied.
- b. The criminals are bold and most likely not worried about operating in broad daylight rather than at nighttime. Also not intimidated to strike a second time, even after the police had responded to the same crime scene the day before. The extent of the damage in the home was done over a period of time and not just a one-time strike. Their initial entry could have been done weeks before.
- c. Probably, the word was passed around criminal circles that this abandoned home was easy pickings and the second set of robbers were unaware that the Sheriff had responded the night before.
- d. The alert neighbor noticed something out of the ordinary on Wednesday and did not hesitate to call for law enforcement to come to the scene. Unfortunately, the following day the same neighbor engaged the people involved in the subsequent robbery and was himself victimized and attacked. He was lucky to only receive a minor injury.

This News Alert is provided to PDS POA Owners to ensure we all remain alert to these types of crimes our essentially safe community can face from time to time.

Also, with the strong endorsement of the Cochise County Sheriff, you are reminded to not hesitate to report your observations of anything out of the ordinary, particularly with vacant homes or those of our "snow birds" when they are not in residence here. "See Something - Say Something" should not be ignored. You will not get in trouble or be ridiculed if you report your observations to the Cochise County Police and dialing 911. It is to be used to summon help in case YOU are in need or if you believe that YOUR neighbors may need help. **BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ATTEMPT TO ACT ON YOUR OWN AND CHALLENGE ANYONE AS WAS DONE IN THIS CASE.** The good Samaritan victim assaulted in this case has asked me to reinforce this message to all of you.

If you have additional information on this incident on Kiowa on Wednesday and Thursday, to include prior observations in this area, do not hesitate to contact Cochise County Sheriff Dispatcher directly at 432-9500 to report any observations you may have made on Kiowa. They have an ongoing investigation.