

# Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | May 2017

## Quick Tip:

As a reminder, lock your vehicle; do not leave any valuables in your vehicle, to include garage door openers, keys to vehicles, and weapons. If you park your vehicle outside of the garage, please take the garage door opener out of the vehicle. And please remember to use a deadbolt lock on the door leading into your home from the garage and keep it locked at all times.



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## Predators Use Social Media

### To Exploit Children: What Parents and Educators Can Do to Stop Them

Every day, children are being targeted, snared, and manipulated by a world of sexual exploitation. They are enticed and sometimes physically coerced into selling themselves for sex. It's called human trafficking. Its modern-day slavery without the chains and shackles of a century ago, but it's real and is happening right under our noses. A community that says "We don't have that problem" is a community that hasn't looked for it. How are these traffickers and pimps gaining access to your children? You don't see them cruising the streets of your neighborhoods. They don't need to. They are being invited into your child's most intimate and private conversations through the internet and social media.

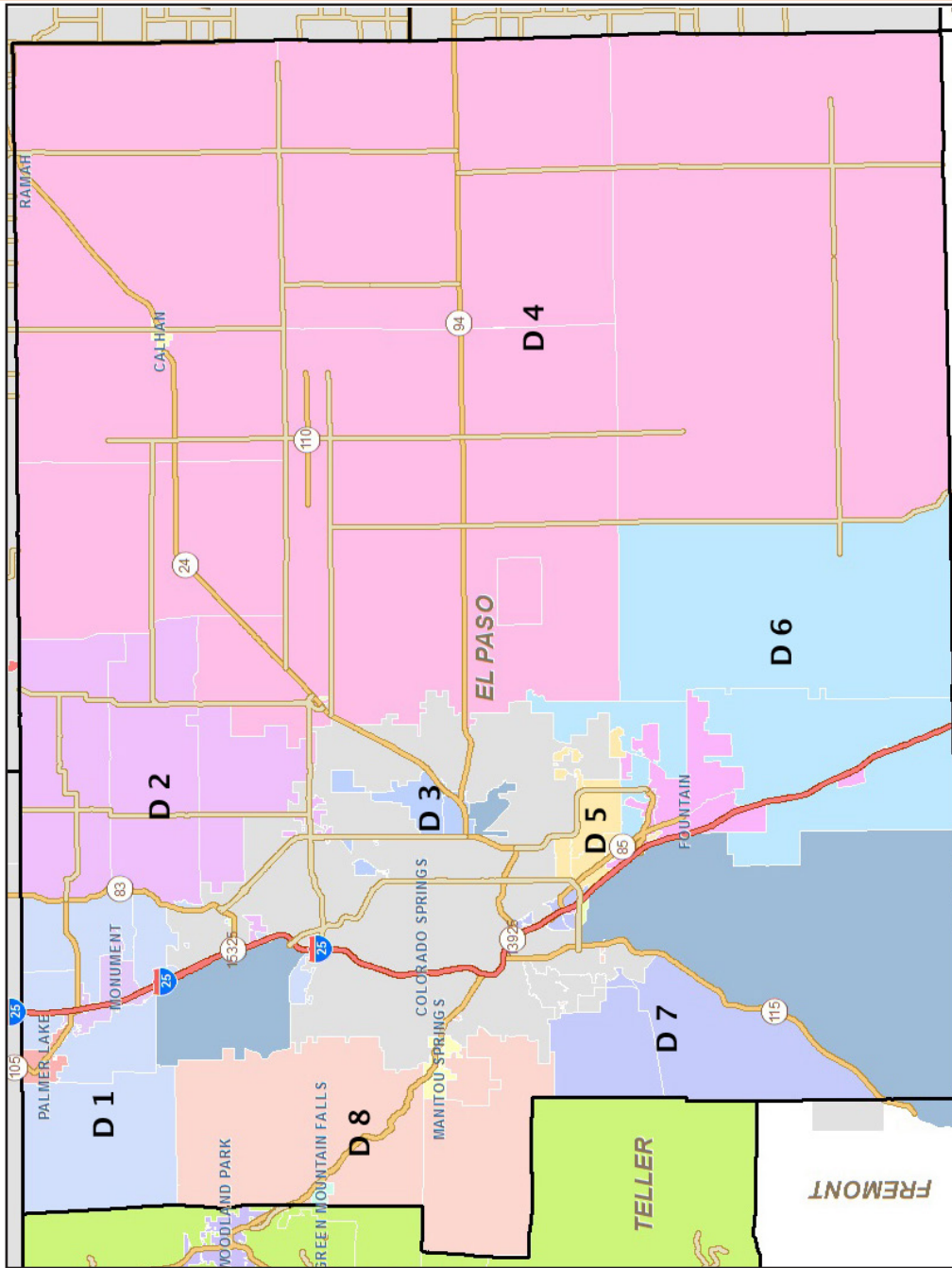
Parents believe the safest place for their children is at home. What is the fear of allowing their children unsupervised outside the home? The general concern among parents is the possibility of their child meeting someone the parent doesn't know – someone dangerous. Although this possibility does exist, the rate of violent crime across the country has significantly decreased in the last 20 years. The chance that a teenager will ever come into physical contact with a sexual predator in their neighborhood, let alone be snatched off the street is very low. When we look again at the picture of a child sitting alone in the safety of his or her room, we see something new. The child sitting on their bed

now has a mobile device in their hands, with internet and social media access. Our social media-connected teen is not only exposed to the people in their neighborhoods, or even the population of the United States, but to roughly 2.5 billion people on the internet. This translates into millions of sexual predators.

In December of 2014, the parents of a 10-year-old girl alerted a Midwestern police department that sexual predators were contacting their child through her iPad. The device was intended for schoolwork, but once social media applications were installed, the tablet became a portal to a dangerous world. After a about a month of unmonitored use, her mother checked the device and was horrified to learn that 16 men had been attempting to manipulate her daughter into sexual situations.

The 10-year-old girl was first contacted by a man on social media, who after talking about things a 10-year old would be interested in turned the conversation to sex. Predators who try to sexually exploit children for the purpose of producing child pornography often share the images, or access to the child with other predators. The predator's methodology was a textbook use of social media to manipulate and exploit this young girl. The young victim told many of the men that she was 10 years old but that only encouraged them to ask for explicit images.

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**District 6**

**Arson** 700 block Andover St. **Burglary** 7600 block Dutch Lp. **Criminal Mischief** Dalie Vw/Bombers Vw. **Criminal Trespass** 600 block Quebec St, 7300 block Theresa Dr, 7200 block Goldfield Dr. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 7100 block Woodstock St, 7300 block Theresa Dr, 7100 block Coral Ridge Dr, 6700 block Caballero Ave, 6800 block Defoe Ave, 7700 & 7800 blocks Dutch Lp, 100 block Fontaine Blvd. **Indecent Exposure** 00 block Widefield Blvd. **Menacing** 8700 block I-25. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 10500 block Jimmy Camp Rd, 7400 block Woodstock St, 6600 block Fielding Cir, 200 block Cielo Vista St. **Motor Vehicle Theft Recovery** 100 block Kokomo St. **Theft** 400 block Dean Dr, 7400 block Dutch Lp, 7500 block Vineland Trl, 17000 block S. Peyton Hwy, 6400 block Straight Arrow Pt.

**District 7**

**Burglary** 1600 block Lashelle Wy. **Criminal Mischief** 2800 block S. Circle Dr. **Criminal Trespass** 3100 block Glenarm Rd, 3700 block W. Colorado Ave. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 1100 block Denise Dr, 00 block Clover Cir W, 2800 block S. Circle Dr, 8100 block Piute Rd, 2000 block Nielsen Ct, 4300 block Millburn South. **Indecent Exposure** 500 block Catalina Dr. **Menacing** 1700 block Keswick Rd. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 600 block Catalina Dr, 4400 block Millburn Dr. **Motor Vehicle Theft Recovery** 1200 block E. Las Vegas St. **Theft** 2800 block S. Circle Dr, 1600 block Lashelle Wy, 500 block Sinton Ave, 1400 block Maxwell St, 8100 block Piute Rd.

# Crimes in Your Neighborhood

## Highlights From *April*

### District 2

**Burglary** 10100 block Hodgen Rd, 3800 block Highview Dr. **Criminal Mischief** 15000 block E. Coachman Dr. **Criminal Trespass** Armonia Ranch Ct/Burgess Rd. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 12600 block Milam Rd. **Littering** 11800 block Goodson Rd. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 7500 block E. Woodmen Rd. **Theft** 15800 block Siesta Grv, 11600 block Black Forest Rd, New Breed Dr/Shoup Rd, 8700 block Vollmer Rd, 6000 block Burgess Rd.

### District 3

**Burglary** 1000 block Western Dr, 1300 block Hathaway Dr, 2000 block Jeanette Wy, 2100 block Leoti Dr, 6600 block Pahokee Ct, 2400 block Waynoka Rd, 5200 block Tamlin Rd, 600 block Valley St, 4800 block Sapphire Dr. **Criminal Mischief** 1800 block Meadowbrook Pkwy, 5800 block Palmer Park Blvd, 6300 block Zermatt Dr. **Criminal Trespass** 5800 block Omaha Blvd. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 7100 block Constitution Square Hts, 6100 block Montero Cir, Mescalero Dr/Commanchero Dr, 700 block Hathaway Dr, 5000 block Park Vista Blvd, 6600 block Proud Eagle Ct, 1400 block Hathaway Dr, 7400 block N. Sioux Cir, 1200 block Soaring Eagle Dr, 2000 & 2300 blocks Reed Grass Wy, 2100 block Sarsi Dr. **Menacing** 6800 block Palmer Park Blvd, 1400 block Hathaway Dr. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 700 block Western Dr, 6300 block Chippewa Rd. **Theft** 2000 block Poteae Cir, 6700 block Pahokee Ct, 2500 block Canada Dr, 2900 block Harrisburg Wy, 4800 block Sapphire Dr, 500 block Peterson Rd, 2400 block Waynoka Pl, 5800 block Omaha Blvd, 1300 block Ainsworth St, 6700 block Dale Rd, 6800 block Space Village Ave, 600 block Peterson Rd.

### District 4

**Burglary** 17800 block Pinon Park Rd, 8500 block Champie Rd, 24000 block Painted Horse Cir, 19700 block Savannah Acres Grv. **Criminal Mischief** 11100 block E. Hwy 24, Sengbeil Rd/Hwy 94, 9700 block Towner Ave, 900 block Spotted Owl Wy. **Criminal Tampering** 19000 block Kevins Vw, 20900 block Ranchette Trl. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 1100 block N. Ellicott Hwy, 10800 block Hidden Ridge Cir, 6700 block Gelbvieh Rd, 12500 block Mt Belford Wy, 8000 & 8100 blocks Oliver Rd, 10200 block Capital Peak Wy. **Criminal Trespass** 11100 block E. Hwy 24, 20400 block Sampson Rd, 10100 block Raptor Lp, 5300 block Ramah Hwy, 5400 block S. Calhan Hwy. **Homicide** 21000 block E. Hwy 24. **Menacing** 600 block Biggs Rd. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 20800 block Oasis Ave, 8300 block Aerostar Dr, 11300 block Garrett Rd, 5700 block Coyote Ln, 1200 block Catch Pen Rd, 19900 block Hwy 94. **Theft** 7700 block Coffee Rd, 11600 block Cranston Dr, 27000 block E. Hwy 24, 23500 block Hwy 94, 9200 block Royal Melbourne Cir, 11000 block Spotswood Ter, 11600 block Avena Rd.

### District 5

**Arson** 5600 block Alturas Dr. **Burglary** 1000 block Main St, 5500 block Barnstormers Ave, 1000 block Crandall Dr, 4900 block Marabou Wy. **Criminal Trespass** 100 block Security Blvd. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 6600 block Stingray Ln, 500 block Camrose Ct, 1100 block Hallamwood Dr, 1200 block Modell Dr, 5300 block S. Hwy 85, 6200 block San Mateo Dr, 10100 block Declaration Dr, 6200 block Hungry Horse Ln, 6200 block Saddlebred Wy, 10700 Deer Meadow Cir, 10500 block Abrams Dr, 9200 block Sand Myrtle Dr, 9500 block Bryce Canyon Dr, 5700 & 5800 blocks Southmoor Dr, 6100 block Hayfield Pl. **Criminal Mischief** 500 block Esther Dr, 9500 block Yukon Wy, 9500 block Copper Canyon Ln. **Criminal Trespass** 5300 block S. Hwy 85. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 500 block Marquette Dr, 700 block Hackberry Dr, 6500 block Justice Wy, 600 block Pennington Dr, 200 block Coker Pl, 1200 block Modell Dr, 500 block Holly Dr, 10400 block Deer Meadow Cir, 10500 block Declaration Dr, 9500 block Desert Lily Cir, 7300 block Southmoor Dr, Main St/Dahlia Dr. **Theft** 5300 block Sparrow Hawk Wy, 9300 block Peaceful Meadow St, 6200 block Laurel Grass Range Trl, 400 block Aspen Dr, 9600 block Yukon Wy, 1300 block Rosemont Dr, 5600 block Hawkesbury Dr, 200 & 1400 blocks Main St, 3500 block Saguaro Cir.

### District 8

**Criminal Mischief** 1700 block Spruce Ln. **Criminal Trespass** 3400 and 3700 block W. Colorado Ave. **Criminal Trespass Auto** Gold Camp Rd/High Dr. **Menacing** 8100 block Chipita Park Rd. **Theft** Chipita Park Rd/Uneda Rd.

### District 1

**Arson** 19500 block Hidden Springs Gln. **Burglary** 14400 block Tierra Dr. **Criminal Mischief** I-25/N. Academy Blvd. **Criminal Trespass** 15200 block Paddington Cir. **Criminal Trespass Auto** 2100 block Stella Dr, 18000 block Furrow Rd, 100 block Avocet Lp, 500 block Portland Rd. **Manslaughter** 19800 block Alexandria Dr. **Motor Vehicle Theft** 16200 block Rickenbacker Ave.

The anonymity and the global nature of the internet make its use by sexual predators a predictable threat, although most parents are unaware of the danger it poses to their children. The pedophiles in this case are likely based in the UK and other countries overseas, making identifying and prosecuting them difficult. Police detectives from the police department are working with social media sites in the hope of tracking them down.

Social media platforms are places where predators can actively stalk children but there are other websites that are passively waiting for children to stumble onto them. Pornographic website chat rooms or classifieds websites are all places where predators are waiting for the curious child to explore.

**To keep your child safe from these predators, we need to have a basic understanding of how they operate:**

1. Online predators look for children who are emotionally vulnerable or who do not appear to have a stable home life. The most vulnerable are children who are dealing with a broken home, runaways, or who are in the child welfare system. Parents must be aware that every child is potentially vulnerable, no matter their family composition or socio-economic level. Children share their thoughts, feelings, likes and dislikes freely on social media. It does not take the predator long to discover who is having problems at home or problems with key relationships in their lives.
2. The predator listens and sympathizes with the child. These predators are skillful manipulators and the children that they prey on do not have the maturity or life experience to counter their advances. They tell the child what the child wants to hear, not what they need to hear. When a teen laments about being grounded for a week by their parent, the predator tells them that their parent was wrong or stupid, and they should have the freedom to do what they want. The predator begins building an “us-against-them” relationship that drives a wedge between the child and their parents.
3. The predator intensifies the relationship by seducing the child. The seduction phase of the manipulation is key to the pedophile’s success. The predator further grooms the child through attention, flattery, affection, kindness, and even gifts. He will make the child feel special. Initial target selection for this phase is very important. Children who are emotionally vulnerable look for love and acceptance. The pedophile knows that a properly manipulated and groomed child will not care that he is older. He does not have to coerce the child into sending him nude images or meet him. What makes this so dangerous is that the victim, the child, helps conceal the relationship from their parents.

4. The predator introduces sex into the conversation. Depending on the progression of the third phase, the introduction of sex into the conversation may occur gradually or rapidly.

**Talk to your child about cyber safety**

Nearly 80 percent of teens said that they did not have parental rules about internet use and only 11 percent told their parents about either being bullied or seeing something disturbing online (NCPC.org, 2015). Having an open conversation with your child about potential threats and what to do if they encounter a problem, is the key safety factor in your child’s life.

**Be judicious when giving your child access to social media**

The above story about the 10-year-old girl would have never occurred if the parents followed the social media app’s minimum age requirement in the User Agreement.

**Turn on parental controls**

Use the device’s parental controls to filter content and to lock out their ability to download applications without your permission.

**Physically search your child’s phone and all social media activity**

Take your child’s device from out of their hands and while they are watching you, go through all their text messages, browser history and social media images/posts.

**Control what applications get installed on your child’s device**

Parental controls should block the installation of applications on the device. Review the appropriateness of every app your child requests to be installed on their device. Read parent reviews on websites like [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org) or [www.cybersafetycop.com](http://www.cybersafetycop.com) before you download a social media app. You should have a good working understanding of what every app on your child’s device does and what the privacy settings are. \*

\*Source: Clayton Cranford, Orange County (CA) Sheriff’s Department

## Upcoming Events

**Shred Event** – May 6, 2017 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. El Paso County is encouraging everyone who has out-dated records, documents or other personal papers around their home to have them properly destroyed during this year's LETTER RIP to help fight identity theft. LETTER RIP will take place in downtown Colorado Springs on Vermijo Street between Cascade Avenue and Sahwatch Street with "drive-thru" service to get rid of old documents that could otherwise get into the wrong hands. To prevent long wait times and manage traffic congestion, event participation is by appointment. Those interested can register at [www.letterrip2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.letterrip2017.eventbrite.com). Participants will then bring their printed or electronic ticket to the May 6 event to gain admittance. Call 719-520-7878 for more information or for assistance.

**Fiesta Car Show** – May 6, 2017 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM @ Phoenix Tower 2864 S. Circle Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

**Coffee With a Cop** – May 6, 2017 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM @ Starbucks 5808 Barnes Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80922. The first bilingual Coffee With a Cop. This is an opportunity for informal and friendly conversation with local law enforcement.

**Wescott Fire Department Safety Fair** – May 13, 2017 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM @ Station 1 located at 15415 Gleneagle Dr.

## FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch  
(non-emergency crime reporting): **390-5555**

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): **520-7111**

EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): **390-5555** option 5

EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): **520-7777**

***Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly.***

For more information, contact the  
Crime Prevention Coordinator:

Merody Broom

**719-520-7151**

***MerodyBroom@elpasoco.com***



# Neighborhood Watch Program