

MEDIA RELEASE

Raleigh Hills Man Nearly Scammed Out of \$15,000

August 1, 2019

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has seen an increase this summer in various scams people are using to take advantage of others, especially the more senior members of our community.

In July, our Property Crimes Unit intercepted a shipment of \$15,000 in cash that an 83-year-old man tried to ship to Georgia. The money was presumably going to be kept there or shipped overseas. He had fallen victim to the "lottery scam." Someone called him and told him he won a lottery, but to have the money delivered, he had to pay a percentage of the winnings. On July 22, 2019, our deputies responded to the man's house because his family reported him missing. It turns out; he had stepped out to mail the \$15,000 in cash.

Initially, the man sent the scammers a bank check for \$25,000, but the bank caught it and rejected it. The scammers then convinced him to complete the rather tedious task of going to Target, buying several notebooks and packing material. He was then instructed to conceal \$15,000 worth of \$100 bills between each page of the notebooks, which were then taped together and sealed inside a shipping box.

Deputies were able to intercept the package at a local UPS Store before they opened for the morning. Luckily for this man, he was able to get all of his money back on the spot.

Our detectives credit the family of the victim for acting so quickly. If the money had reached its destination, the money would have been lost forever.

The Sheriff's Office would like to encourage people to keep an eye out for any strange packages their senior loved ones may be trying to send out. Also, please talk with older members of your family to educate them about how scammers are trying to steal their money by convincing them they won fake lotteries.



SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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