

MEDIA RELEASE

Update: Deputies Arrest Man For Stealing Bait Package

August 16, 2020

On Sunday, August 16, 2020, at 10:46 a.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies were alerted to a bait package that was taken from a residence in Aloha. Investigators were able to real-time track the package to a parking lot at Aloha High School. Deputies found 19-year-old Eric R. Gonzalez sitting inside a vehicle near the area where the bait package was tracking. Mr. Gonzalez admitted to taking the package after seeing it sitting unattended on a porch. The stolen package was found inside of Mr. Gonzalez's vehicle.

Deputies arrested Mr. Gonzalez and charged him with Mail Theft and Theft in the Second Degree.



Original Release:

On Wednesday, August 4, 2020, Deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Office will begin targeting thieves who steal packages delivered to porches across the county.

Working closely with the United States Postal Inspection Service, detectives with the Property Crimes Unit will be setting up a bait package mission in hopes of catching package thieves in the act. These decoy packages are equipped with electronic tracking devices that allow deputies to track them after they've been stolen.

Detectives use package theft data provided by the U.S. Postal Service to determine which areas have the biggest problems with "porch pirates."

As online ordering continues to rise due to COVID-19 and the anticipation of students learning from home at the beginning of the 2020 school year, deputies and detectives want to take proactive steps to ensure packages arrive safely.

Detectives from the Property Crimes Unit work proactively throughout the year to combat the problem of package thefts in our community. For the last five years, detectives have placed numerous bait packages throughout Washington County to deter potential package thieves.



SHERIFF
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