



Umatilla County Sheriff's Office

John Trumbo, Sheriff

4700 NW Pioneer Place Pendleton, OR 97801
Phone: 541-966-3601 FAX: 541-278-5496

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	Contact: Sgt. Greg Hodgen 541-966-3643
Press Release # 1	
January 30, 2007 2:24pm	

Mail Scam Hits Local Area

Pendleton, Ore. – The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit wants to make the public aware of mail scams hitting our area. These scams are addressed to the recipient by name and appear to be legitimate. Some are even written on official parchment paper.

One such scam notifies the recipient they have been declared a winner in The Netherlands Sweepstakes Lottery. Along with this notification is a check written to the intended victim for up to \$4,700. The victim is urged to not cash the check until they have contacted the promotion manager. The crux of this scam is to get you to deposit the bogus check for \$4,700 then wire a designated amount of money to the perpetrator to cover associated fees and taxes. By the time the victim finds out the money they received is no good, they have already mailed off un-retrievable monies to the perpetrators.

The second type of scam notifies the intended victim they are the last know heir to a deceased family and an attorney has secured their fortune, in this case \$10.5 million, with a secure finance company and urges them to contact the attorney. The intended victim is asked to pay the attorney up front taxes and fees for their money, which they, of course, will never receive.

Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these scams consistently prey off of honest, trusting people. The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office urges citizens to use due caution and view these letters with a skeptical eye. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

If you receive a letter such as these you are encouraged to report the occurrence via email to a national database at ic3.gov. The local FBI is aware of these on going scams.

Attached are a sample letter and a check

.# # #