



The Shining Star

Lincoln County Sheriff's Department

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Scamming or Skimming? County Residents Should Be Aware of These Tactics

Lincolnton, NC — Sheriff Tim Daugherty is warning residents about a scam involving false claims about winning a lottery and to be aware of skimming on credit cards.

A western Lincoln County woman received a call from a woman claiming to be with the IFLC International Lottery. She was told she had won a \$25 million dollar lottery but she would have to send \$800 to a man in Lucea, Jamiaca to claim her prize.

Fortunately, the woman recognized the call as a scam and did not send the money to the so-called organization.

She did file a report with the Sheriff's Office to make everyone aware the scam operation is being conducted in the local area by telephone.

The popular belief is that senior citizens, like the Reeps Grove Church Road woman, are the most frequent targets of the scam artists. But the crafty crooks can take people of all ages, income and education levels, and lifestyles.

Phone scam artists call potential victims and try to truck them into sharing personal information. By observing basic precautions, you can help protect yourself from phone scams.

- Never provide your personal information or password in response to an unsolicited request
- Ask the caller for their name, department and phone extension and then try to contact the company to determine if the call is legitimate.
- Review your account statements regularly to insure all charges are correct.

(Please see **Skimmers**, page 2)



The most popular method of scamming is by telephone

Officers Conduct First Face to Face Check of Sex Offenders Living in the County.

Lincoln County Sheriff's officers along with Lincolnton Police and State Probation and Parole conducted a check of the 71 sex offenders living in Lincoln County and discovered four could not be located. Since that time all have been accounted for but one.

Michael Pilkington, who listed an East Highway 150 address, had moved and not notified the Sheriff's Office. Jennifer Mathewson, who helped put the sex offender checkup operation together, located Pilkington in a Shelby County, Alabama jail charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

Donald Earl Kilpatrick, 52, was arrested at his Ivey Church Road residence. He was charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

Officers are still looking for David Wayne Carpenter who is 26 years old. Carpenter's last known address was Highway 274 in western Lincoln County.

Officers used the operation to update photos and personal information about the sex offenders.

As of December 1, 2006 sex offenders are required to register in person at the Sheriff's Office. Failure to do so could result in as much as 13 months in prison.

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704-736-8606
Crime and Drug
Tip Line
704-736-8606

Special points of interest:

- Lincoln County Court-house
- Lincoln County Citizens Center
- Gaston College-Lincoln Campus
- Lake Norman

First Sergeant is the Sheriff's Office Communications Link to the Hispanic Community

Lincolnton, NC — The Communication Center receives a call from an Hispanic resident who speaks little or no English or a patrol officer goes on a call where there is a need for someone who speaks Spanish.

The first call the officer makes is to First Sergeant Erin Long who has become proficient in speaking the Spanish language.

Long decided several years ago to learn the language after several occasions where she was on a call and couldn't converse with the person who had been the victim of a crime. Sgt Long began Spanish Language training in 1999 with law enforcement and curriculum based courses. In 2001, she attended Spanish Immersion Classes for Law Enforcement officers at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. The entire class was taught in Spanish and no English was used for the entire four week period. She is continually

working to improve by taking continued education and putting it to practical use.

Not only has she learned the language, she is also an instructor with Central Piedmont Community College and Gaston College teaching the language to other officers.

Sgt Long said, "its important for officers to be aware of the cultural differences between the Hispanic and American societies. Once this is understood, officers are able to communicate, obtain information, and gain respect, and in turn, officers get respect."

Sgt Long says the language barrier usually occurs during traffic stops, but she also does translation for officers and magistrates. She has also interviewed rape victims and traffic victims. It makes it all worthwhile if the officers put enough into studying the language to maybe someday save a life or break down the communications barrier.



First Sgt. Erin Long works to increase officers knowledge of the Spanish lan-

"If an officer learns to speak the language well enough to save a life or breakdown the communications barrier, it makes my teaching all worthwhile"
1st Sgt Erin Long, LCSO

Scammers and Skimmers

(Cont from Page 1)

Sheriff Daugherty says authorities have discovered a state of the art credit card skimming device. It first surfaced in Texas where the device was placed inside a gas pump where they could hold information from as many as 3,000 credit cards.

Skimming is a method utilizing new technology by which thieves capture your personal and account information from your credit card. Because skimming devices are so small and easy to hide, it is easy to have your card skimmed without you noticing. For example, the cards could be skimmed at a restaurant, ATM Machines, and by store clerks. Once the thieves have your credit card information, they can sell it, commit credit card fraud, or make counterfeit cards.

You can protect yourself by:

- Monitoring anyone who handles your card
- Keeping low limits on your credit cards
- Canceling credit cards that you do not use
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Taking all your receipts
- Protecting your PIN

ID Theft of the Deceased Person:

This is another way scammers are getting your money. They scan obituaries to get names of those recently deceased and their address. They buy

Social Security numbers and other personal data such as credit histories over the internet for as little as \$15. Officials say about 400,000 checking accounts were opened in the names of deceased people in 2004 and that has increased over the last several years.

Here are some DO's and DON'Ts you can use:

- **DON'T** include details such as date and month of birth or addresses on obituaries.
- **DO** mail copies of death certificates to all three credit reporting bureaus and all credit issuers to cancel accounts right after the person dies.
- **DO** contact you state department of motor vehicles to cancel any driver's license and prevent duplicates from being issued.

A few weeks after taking these measures, run a credit report on the deceased to ensure there is no suspicious activity. You can get a free report from each bureau at www.annualcreditreport.com.

These are only a few of the scams that could occur. Two popular scams that come with the season are the driveway sealer "deal of the century" and someone keeps you pre-occupied outside your home while an accomplice ransacks your home.





Message From Sheriff Daugherty

Citizen Complaints

Complaints are a part of life. I wish that I never received any complaints, but the truth is I do receive them. We do not always meet our customer's expectations and the end result is a complaint.

I take all complaints seriously. I assign someone to investigate the complaint and then provide me with the information.

When you call in a complaint I need certain information from you to be able to determine what has happened. I need the following information:

- Name or names of the deputy or deputies
- Name of the complainant
- Nature of the complaint (who, what, where, when, why, and how)
- Dates and times
- What specifically you want done
- And a return phone number

Basically, I need as much information as you know so that I can make a determination of the facts.

If the complaint is serious enough, I may ask that you come to the Sheriff's Office and submit a written statement. I may schedule a meeting with you and the deputy involved in order to reach a solution.

Remember that I will need time to investigate the complaint and also to see if I can work out a proper response to the complaint.

By their nature, some complaints may be outside of my realm of authority or jurisdiction. In that event, I will be glad to put you in touch with the proper authority and assist if possible with the resolution.

At times the complaint may require intensive investigation, which could become time consuming. You may feel that we are not following up on your complaint. In that event, I will try to contact you periodically to let you know we are still investigating.

As part of the response to your complaint, I may ask that you come in and personally meet with me to discuss the findings.

I will keep a record of all complaints and will use them as part of our annual in-service training as a tool to help our deputies better respond to your expectations.



Personnel Invited to 9-1-1 Sunday Services at Highland Drive Freewill Baptist Church

As the newly appointed chaplain for the Lincoln County Sheriff's office, Pastor Brian Williams invites all personnel to attend "9-1-1 Sunday" services at the church on April 29th at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Williams says "As a church family, we are deeply grateful and would like to express our appreciation to you". Williams went on to say that "we would like to express our gratitude and honor you and your department for making a difference in our community and in our world"

The annual event will include a special singing, a special gift for each fire, police and rescue personnel in attendance, and special recognitions for each department represented. Officers are asked to come in uniform so the congregation can recognize you and thank you. Following the service and meal, church officials would like for each department to show their children the emergency equipment including police cars, fire engines and ambulances.

Lincoln County Detention Center Quarterly Report for 1st Quarter 2007

The average population at the Harven A Crouse Detention Center for the first three months of the year was 102 inmates. The total number of inmates booked in the jail were 750. During January, February and March there were 36 public arrests. PA's are people who were not charged but incarcerated for intoxication. The weekend population for the quarter was 99 inmates. Detention officers traveled 9,235 miles transporting 1001 inmates during the quarter.

Sheriff Daugherty Responds to Deaths of Two Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Officers

In a message to Lincoln County Sheriff's Office employees, Sheriff Daugherty wrote:

Once again tragedy has struck our family. This time they were members of our extended family of law enforcement professionals. Officers Clark and Shelton were gunned down in the most cruel and senseless fashion. Officer Sean Clark was a resident of Lincoln County, an important and vital member of our community.

I want to thank all of you for the many expressions of kindness and acts of charity toward the Clark family. The most difficult time lays ahead for Mrs. Clark. I ask that you continue to remember her and pray for her, as the months ahead will be extremely difficult for her to face.

I thank God as each day passes that none of us, the family of LCSO, has had to feel the cold grasping hand of death in the line of duty. We have had to come face to face with our own mortality over the last several months and we have had ample occasion to think of those things we prefer to forget. I encourage all of you to give thanks to God in this Easter season for life.

I want to thank all those who participated in the car wash fundraiser, especially Steve Grinnell. Lincoln County is so fortunate to have such caring and professional people like all of you (administrative, detention, and deputies) serving and protecting them.

Thank you. May God bless all of you.

Tim L Daugherty, Sheriff

Jeff Shelton

Sean Clark



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Lincoln County Sheriff
Tim Daugherty