

POLICE



CRIME STOPPERS

(503) 823-HELP 111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Scam Targets Elderly Motorists

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying and apprehending a couple who are victimizing elderly motorists with an auto accident scam.

In two reported cases, a couple hailed down and stopped drivers who had just driven off a business parking lot, claiming the motorist had damaged their car.

"The suspects intimidated the victim with threats that if they reported the accident to DMV, the victim's license would be suspended. They then told the victim if she paid for the damage they would forget the matter," police said.

In both cases, police said the victims were later given estimates of damages and then paid the fraudulent claims.



Police released this store surveillance photo of a woman wanted in an auto accident scam.

To make matters worse, in one of the scams, the suspects had a child with them and told a story about needing a rental car to get the child

to a doctor and was paid \$1,000 for medical expenses.

The female suspect is described as white, approximately 45 to 50-years of age, 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighing 150 to 155 pounds, with dark-brown shoulder length hair. Varied discriptions were made of her white male accomplice, suggesting she is possibly working with two separate individuals, police said.

The suspects' vehicle is described only as a white or light colored "newer" vehicle.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.

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PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Police, firefighters and an unidentified woman are at the scene of deadly shooting and subsequent car wreck Monday along Northeast Fremont east of Grand Avenue.

Car Shooting Kills Man

A man was found dead inside his wrecked BMW on Northeast Fremont near Grand Avenue Monday in a possible drug-related shooting, police said.

Morris R. Rivers, 48, of Sacramento, Calif. died of a single gunshot to the neck. A female passenger sustained only minor injuries, police said.

Witnesses reported that gunfire erupted in the vicinity around 7 p.m. Monday just before the victim's car went crashing down a

side street and across Fremont.

Police are searching for the gunman. Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call Detective Steve Ober at 503-823-4033 or Detective Rich Austria at 503-823-049.

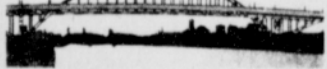


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Decoys to Target Alcohol Sales

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission plans to conduct 1,000 licensee compliance checks statewide this year, up 70 from last year, said Linda Ignowski, director of the agency's regulatory division.

During the checks, 18-20-year-old volunteers attempt to buy alcohol from stores and other liquor estab-

lishments to see if they are properly checking identification and obeying state law prohibiting alcohol sales to anyone under 21. Local police agencies work with the underage decoys.

The OLCC also wants to boost the number of liquor licensees who qualify for its responsible vendor program. Under this status, licens-

ees will be eligible for reduced sanctions if their employees inadvertently sell alcohol to a minor.

During 2003, OLCC regulatory staff members plan to visit about a quarter of the 8,000 liquor licensees to exchange information and answer questions on new laws, policies and related areas.

Remains Identified as Cassandra Brown

(AP)—Human remains found in a duffel bag on the Washington coast are those of Cassandra Brown, an 18-year-old woman from north Portland who has been missing since early this month, the Pacific County Sheriff's Office said Thursday.

Brown's former boyfriend, 18-year-old Benjamin Cramer of Port-

land has pleaded innocent to murder and abuse of a corpse in Brown's death. He remains in Multnomah County Jail.

The Pacific County Sheriff's Office called Portland police late Wednesday afternoon to report the discovery of a green duffel bag on the beach near Long Beach, Wash., about 75 miles from Portland.

The bag appears to have drifted from the Willamette River to the Columbia River and out toward the ocean, said Brian Schmautz, Portland Police spokesman.

Police have said they believe Brown was killed Jan. 4 or Jan. 5 at Cramer's house in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland.



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