

Identity thieves sought after spending spree

The Columbia Press

Someone broke into an Ohio woman's car while it was parked at Fort Columbia near Chinook and stole credit cards, debit cards and a camera then used the cards to purchase items at several locations in Warrenton.

The break-in occurred about 3 p.m. June 25 and later that day purchases were made at Fred Meyer, Walmart and Dairy Queen in Warrenton and at Rise and Grind in Astoria.

A man and woman in their 20s were caught using the card on video surveillance at Walmart. They were driving a maroon 2011-14 model Hyundai Sonata with black-tinted windows, no front plate and an obscured back plate.

She is white, 5-feet 2-inches tall, 150 pounds, with strawberry blond hair, brown eyes and large breasts. She has a large tattoo on her left arm that includes two roses.

He is 5-feet 4-inches tall, thin, with blond hair, blue eyes, crooked teeth and a tattoo with writing on his right inner bicep. He used a Loui-

siana driver's license for age verification at Walmart.



"It is believed these two continued down the coast into California," Chief Mathew Workman wrote in a press release. "As you can see, the newer surveillance system at Walmart is very good and the images are much clearer than previous images."

The couple is wanted for vehicle burglary in the state of Washington and for identity theft, forgery and fraudulent use of a credit card in Oregon.

Anyone who may have information about the case is urged to contact Officer Alfonso Fontana at 503-325-8661 or afontana@ci.warrenton.or.us.

Surveillance at Walmart shows the couple leaving with purchases made using an auto burglary victim's credit card.

Unemployment benefits increased July 1

The amount paid to people filing for unemployment insurance benefits has increased.

The maximum weekly benefit amount someone can receive increased from \$604 to \$624, while the minimum amount increased from \$141 to \$146.

The change affects new unemployment insurance claims filed after July 1. Those with existing unemployment claims will continue to receive the same weekly amount they've been receiving.

Oregon's Unemployment Insurance program provides temporary, partial-wage re-

placement for workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

The income provided to unemployed workers partially stabilizes the economy in local communities experiencing high unemployment during economic downturns.

Each year, the Oregon Employment Department recalculates the maximum and minimum amounts of unemployment insurance benefits people can receive. The amounts are set as percentages of the average weekly wage earned by Oregonians.

The minimum benefit amount is 15 percent of aver-

age weekly wage, and the maximum amount is 64 percent.

Higher wage growth in 2017 resulted in a 3.5 percent increase to the minimum weekly benefit and a 3.3 percent increase in the maximum weekly benefit.

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Local residents earn college honors

Clatsop County residents received honors from several colleges recently.

Rachel Fackler of Astoria earned a master's degree in teaching from George Fox University in Newberg.

Morgan Postlewait of Astoria was named to Dean's List at George Fox University for spring semester. The biology major earned at least a 3.5 grade point average. Morgan Brown and Summer Spell, both of Seaside, were named to the Dean's

List at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif.

Cody Carmichael of Seaside graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

Harley Moren of Seaside graduated with a bachelor's degree in renewable energy engineering from OIT.

Micah Sivley of Hammond received a bachelor's degree in nuclear medicine molecular imaging from OIT.

Life Flight offers discount memberships

Life Flight Network, the nation's largest nonprofit air ambulance service, is celebrating its 40th year of service with new memberships of \$40 through Labor Day.

"Since 1978, Life Flight Network has provided air medical transport service to people in the Pacific Northwest, saving lives and saving valuable time when every second counts," said Michael Griffiths, Life Flight's chief executive officer. "It is our privilege to continue to serve the region alongside hospitals

and the emergency response community."

Members incur no out-of-pocket expense if flown for medically necessary emergent conditions by Life Flight Network or one of its reciprocal partners.

Membership covers the holder, spouse or domestic partner, and dependents claimed on income tax returns.

Memberships are normally \$65.

To enroll, call 800-982-9299.

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