



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

On February 15th at about 7:00 AM Ukiah Police responded to the 1100 block of Helen Avenue for a male and female seen going through mailboxes. Responding officers spotted the suspects walking in the 800 block of Helen Avenue and contacted them. The female provided a false name, but officers found she possessed a public assistance access card (EBT) in the name of 29 year old Schanna Marie Safarian, and she eventually confirmed that was her name. Safarian was wearing a backpack and carrying a sports bag. Inside the bag officers located numerous unopened pieces of mail addressed to numerous Helen Avenue residents. In her backpack officers located a pair of bolt cutters, methamphetamine, and more unopened mail from other city streets. Safarian initially stated she picked the mail up after a friend dropped it, and later admitted to stealing it and having previously burned mail stolen earlier in the month.

Safarian was arrested for possessing stolen property, possessing burglary tools, possessing methamphetamine, providing a false identity, criminal conspiracy, and violating probation. Safarian has been arrested numerous times recently for identity theft and drug related crimes, and is on probation related to those arrests.

The male had identification from Oregon identifying him as 26 year old Cody Huber, and he displayed symptoms of having used methamphetamine recently. Huber had a methamphetamine smoking pipe, and a pair of scissors and a pocket tool. It was determined Huber was likely acting as Safarian's "lookout", and he was arrested for possessing stolen property, possessing drug paraphernalia, being under the influence of a controlled substance, possessing burglary tools, and criminal conspiracy.

Officers recovered and were able to return mail to residents on Helen Avenue, as well as Luce Avenue, Cochrane Avenue, Dolan Canyon Drive, Cherry Street, Apple Avenue, and Waugh Lane. Officers were able to obtain home surveillance footage portraying Safarian and Huber engaged in mail theft.

The Ukiah Police Department has noticed a sharp increase in the theft of mail recently, and residents are encouraged to be extra cautious and vigilant with incoming and outgoing mail. The use of the post office and other locked mail receptacles for outgoing mail is encouraged, and received mail should be removed from the curbside mailbox in a timely fashion. Residents should immediately report suspicious person(s) particularly in residential areas at night or in the early morning hours.

Prepared by Captain Justin Wyatt

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