



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

Press Release: Adult female steals medical equipment arrested UPD case # 16-1732

On June 14th at about 8:45 in the morning, UPD officers were dispatched to a residence in the 1000 block of North Pine Street, for a report of a female subject who stole a package from their front porch. The dispatcher was able to obtain a very good description of the suspect from the victim and provided that information to responding units. Officers checked the area and located the suspect in the 1200 block of North Pine Street and detained her. The suspect was identified as Wana Matthias age 29 and a records check revealed that she was on probation for a prior theft. During the investigation officers learned that prior to police being called, the victim was inside her residence when she heard her dog barking. The victim looked out her front window and noticed Matthias walking her bicycle down the handicap ramp attached to her front porch. The victim noticed that Matthias had stolen a package from her porch. The package contained an Intralite feeding tube pump for the victim's disabled son valued at \$1,100.00. As Matthias left the victim was able to photograph her and provided the photo to officers. The stolen property was recovered and Matthias was placed under arrest for grand theft and violation of her probation. Matthias was booked into county jail.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some tips to protect you from a home delivery theft:

- *If you are not going to be home, think about sending the package to the residence of a trusted friend or relative, who you know will be home.*
- *Ask the package delivery company to hold the package if you will not be home.*
- *Request that your package is marked "signature required".*
- *Sometimes you can leave special instructions on where to deliver the package, so that it is out of sight.*
- *Use a company that provides a tracking service and check online to see when your package is scheduled to arrive.*
- *If you have an understanding boss, have your package delivered to your work.*
- *If something is suspicious notify your local police.*

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.