



Spokane County
— Sheriff —
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News Release

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Deputies Capture Forgery Team

Deputies Friday arrested a three-person fraud team that traversed Spokane, bank to bank, stealing thousands of dollars using counterfeit Oregon driver's licenses and inactive, counterfeit or stolen credit cards.

Booked into the Spokane County Jail on one count each of First-Degree Theft was 25-year-old Corey Jones, 24-year-old Lukeisha A. Harris and 23-year-old Elicionne L. Washington, all reportedly from the Seattle area.

Harris, six feet tall and 400 pounds, had just under \$26,000 and several bank receipts hidden in her bra when searched during the booking-in process.

Deputies Bret Pierson, Rob Cunningham and Jim Reed were called to the Washington Trust Bank branch at 438 E. Hastings Road about 1:15 p.m. Friday by an employee who reported that a black woman had attempted to gain money using a stolen credit card.

By the time deputies arrived, the suspect had left in a black Nissan Altima. The suspect was described as a "heavyset" woman wearing black clothing and pink shoes.

The complainant at the bank said the suspect left driving toward the Wandemere branch. Deputies arrived there and again missed the suspects, but learned they were now at the North Pointe branch of Chase Bank. The deputies drove there and contacted Washington, Harris and Jones, as well as a black man driving the Nissan.

Both women identified themselves to different deputies as Aurora Wright. As they dug through a bible for their identification, several pieces of identification fell out. The ID's all had the name of Aurora Wright, but with different photos. When they ran Jones' Oregon driver's license, they learned it did not exist.

During the investigation, an employee of the Washington Trust Bank at 3810 N. Maple informed the deputies that a black female had taken \$8,000 from that branch. The

suspects' method of operation was to present a credit card, ask for a cash advance, and then provide a phone number to get the amount approved when the card would not work.

The confederate on the other end of the phone would provide an authorization number which would override the card's inactive status.

The suspects were carrying counterfeit Oregon driver's licenses in each of their names, as well as inactive or stolen credit cards from American Express, Wachovia Bank, Discover, Visa, Master Charge and Capitol One.

Search warrants were executed on both the suspect's Nissan and the group's motel room at the Comfort Inn on North Division. Results of those searches were unavailable Saturday.

Reed said that deputies were unable to establish with any of the banking witnesses that the driver of the Nissan had been involved in the thefts. He was released pending additional investigation.

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