

LOCAL NEWS

Angela knew she was the 'Holder' of fraudulent check

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Angela Holder, of Kings Mountain, got a \$4,755 check in the mail on Friday for a contest she never entered. It was a scam.

"This is not the first scam going through the mail," she said.

Standard Lottery Gaming Corporation, supposedly stationed out of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, sent her a letter, post-marked in Canada, claiming that she had won \$50,000 from an unknown 2007 Sweepstakes Lottery held on July 30, 2007. "This is from total prize money of \$250,000 U.S. dollars that was shared and presented among five declared winners," according to the letter. "All the participants were selected through a random computer ballot system drawn from over 500,000 names."

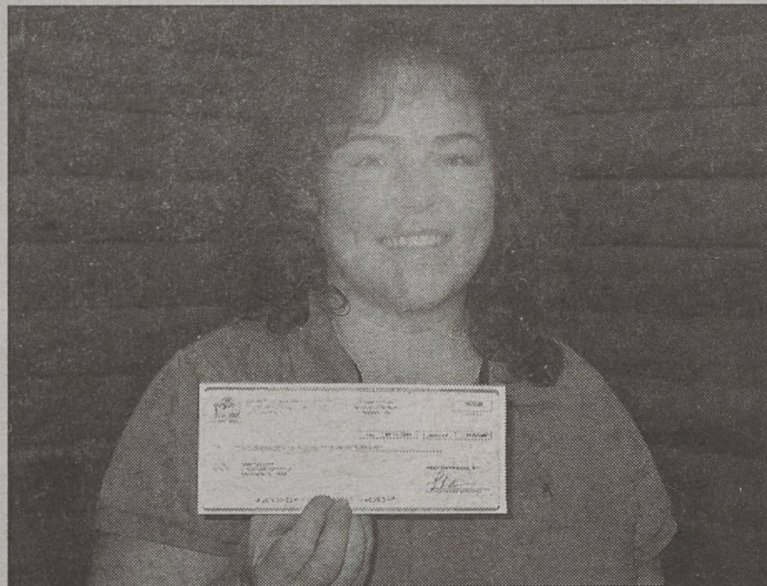
The letter further stated that her prize money had been forwarded to their "clearing/disbursement institution," where her funds would be released by check or money order. "To expedite the processing, enclosed is a check of \$4,755 U.S. dollars which has been deducted from your winning(s). You will be using some money on this first check to pay for the applicable taxes on your winning(s)," the letter stated, adding in black bold letters: "The tax amount is to be paid either by Moneygram or Western Union."

The check from Wendy's International, Inc. comes from an authentic bank with watermarks and the official logo and address of Wendy's headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. Real check. Real bank. Real fraud. "We called this bank," Holder said. "I looked it up on the internet, called them and they referred us to their headquarters and headquarters said yes, it's a fraud."

Kings Mountain residents accused of manufacturing meth

Susanne Rebecca Gillespie, 30, and Christopher Shane Crocker, 33, were arrested Sunday morning after Cleveland County Sheriff's officers noticed some suspicious cooking supplies inside a Kings Mountain home.

Officers responded to Adele Lane around 3:30 a.m. after receiving a call that a disoriented man was waking up the neigh-



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Angela Holder, of Kings Mountain, did not buy it when she received a check in the mail and a letter exclaiming she had won a lottery she never entered.

Here's how the scam works: Standard Lottery Gaming Corporation mails out these letters and fraudulent checks to unsuspecting people in hopes that someone will deposit the check into their bank account and send them the applicable taxes to get their winnings. Once the checks are deposited and the money orders for the taxes sent, Standard Lottery Gaming Corporation wins. The person who cashes the check loses.

The checks will eventually bounce. The rest of the lottery winnings, promised to be delivered, never comes. And the person who cashed the fateful check will be held accountable for paying every penny spent back in full. In a final twist of irony, once you have sent the money order and called the payment verification number (888-862-6548) you are greeted with an automatic message, simply stating: "Thank you. Goodbye."

Holder knew better. She knew that the letter and check she

received was a scam. She took it to the Kings Mountain Police Department but was told there is nothing they can do about it, especially since the fraud spans multiple countries. However, she did find some hope at the Post Office. The post master said that he would add it to his file of mail fraud, which grows thicker with each letter. If you receive a letter and check similar to Holder's do not cash it. Check with the bank and the company on the check before putting it in the bank, and if it is a fraud, give it to your local post master.

What to look out for:

- A real lottery would send you a check of your winnings after removing fees and taxes.
- You can't win a lottery you never entered.
- You can't win a lottery in a different country.
- If the company's name on the check is not even mentioned in the letter, it's probably a scam.

bors. The man, too confused to even remember his own name, was able to lead deputies back to his home on Adele Lane. After getting him back home, officers noticed several ingredients inside the house, through the windows. A few minutes later Crocker and Gillespie, who also reside at the home, returned with two more ingredients used

to produce meth: iodine and peroxide, officers said.

The Sheriff's office placed Gillespie and Crocker under arrest Sunday morning. They were held at the Cleveland County Detention Center, each under a \$250,000 bond. The disoriented man, whose identity has yet to be released, has not yet been charged in the case.

KM POLICE REPORT

ARRESTS

Richard Flowers, 49, Baker St., felony intimidating witness, \$50,000 secured bond.

Paulette Warren, 43, Hardy St., driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, \$1,000 secured bond.

David Noblett, Second St., warrant for arrest/communicating threats, \$500 unsecured bond.

Cathy Knight, 42, Alexander St., two counts worthless check, criminal summons issued.

Samuel Bower, 18, Katherine Ave., felony possession of schedule II substance, \$2,500 secured bond.

April McAbee, 25, Gastonia, DWI, \$500 unsecured bond.

Thomas Smith, 18, York, SC, felony possession of schedule II cocaine, \$2,500 secured bond.

Michael Whitaker, 38, Grover, FTA child support, \$2,000 secured bond.

Andrew Nance, 21, Gastonia, DWI, \$500 unsecured bond.

Steven Douglas, 28, W. Gold St., no operator's license, failure to register, no insurance, \$1,000 secured bond.

Jeremy West, Leicester, NC, probation violation, \$20,000 secured bond.

Reginald Turner, 29, W.Parker St., misdemeanor possession of marijuana, \$500 secured bond.

Dawn Walls, 37, Thornburg Dr., FTC child support, \$410 secured bond.

Andrew Adamoli, 16, Hill St., communicating threats, \$2,000 secured bond.

Michael Hastings, N.

Piedmont Ave., felony larceny by employee, \$2,000 secured bond.

Crystal Fuller, 29, Gold Mine Springs Rd., two counts worthless check, written promise.

Raymond Roberts, 39, Gaffney, DWI, \$180 secured bond.

INCIDENTS

A resident of Hill St. reported larceny of a motorcycle valued at \$1,500.

City of Kings Mountain reported damage to a monument at Patriots Park.

A resident of Kaitlyn Ln. reported a break-in and damage to weather stripping.

A resident of N. Cansler St. reported larceny of an air compressor valued at \$150.

A resident of Gastonia reported identity fraud by someone who used his personal information for medical services.

Classic Sport Shoes, Floyd St., reported that someone attempted to obtain property with a stolen credit card.

A resident of Floyd St. reported being assaulted.

Frito Lay, Waco Rd. reported that someone entered a truck and stole 102 packs of sunflower seeds.

A resident of N. Piedmont Ave. reported that someone kicked in a door and damaged a lock.

A resident of E. King St. reported larceny of a handgun.

C&C Precision Machine, Canterbury Rd., reported a break-in and larceny of sheet metal valued at \$300.

A resident of Landing St. reported that someone kicked the side of her vehicle.

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