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NAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2013 Nampa Police arrested Jeannie Halsell for one count of Exploitation of a vulnerable Adult (18-1505), a felony. Halsell is a 37 year old female resident of Nampa. Halsell is accused of sealing more that \$50,000 from her grandmother over a two year period. If convicted Halsell could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.



This investigation was conducted in part by the Nampa Police Department Vulnerable Taskforce. The taskforce is a federally funded program made up of police, prosecutors, adult protection, Health & Welfare, care providers and Clergy to investigate financial and physical abuse of vulnerable adults. The taskforce was created in recognition of an alarming and increasing pattern of abuse, neglect and exploitation of senior citizens and serves as a model for the new emphasis on abuse and neglect of the elderly. In its short existence there have been many successes including arrests of individuals who have attempted to steal from senior citizens or who have not provided proper care for the elderly.

The purpose of the Nampa Police Department Elder Abuse Task Force is threefold:

1. To raise overall community awareness of criminal elder abuse, which includes both physical abuse/neglect and financial crimes against seniors (misused funds or powers of attorney, theft, etc.).
2. To provide specific training concerning signs of physical abuse and neglect to law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, hospital staff, banks, and care providers.
3. To provide a united effort to successfully investigate and prosecute allegations of elder abuse, by utilizing 'working group' meetings designed to specifically present and analyze pending investigations.

Historically, lawmakers and law enforcement have properly focused much energy and resources towards the prevention and prosecution of crimes against children. We will continue to do so, with vigor, because of the vulnerability of these particular victims. Likewise, some of our citizens at the opposite end of the spectrum are vulnerable. Unfortunately, with an ever-growing population of seniors there has also been an increase in the exploitation of some of our older, more vulnerable, population. Our seniors deserve to be respected and honored rather than abused. They deserve to be protected.

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