

Bonneville County Sheriff's Office

News Release

7-23-2009

Grand Theft by Fraud

On 7-21-2009 the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office was informed about a possible fraud involving Livestrong, the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

It was reported that there was a 15 year old boy from Ammon Idaho named Jonathan Jay White reporting that he suffered from a cancer called Anaplastic Astrocytoma since April of 2008. Numerous celebrity items, donations and memorabilia were sent to Jonathan White at an address in Ammon, Idaho. Last week, Jonathan was scheduled to undergo surgery in Arizona. Late last week, Melissa Ann Rice (24 years old) of Ammon, Idaho disclosed to the Lance Armstrong Foundation that she was a female and that Jonathan did not exist.

The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office was unable to locate Rice. The Sheriff's Office served search warrants on the Rice's residence and recovered numerous items that had been donated to Jonathan.

On July 22, 2009, the Bonneville County Prosecutor filed felony grand theft charges against Melissa Rice alleging that Rice obtained, money, property and celebrity memorabilia as part of a common scheme or plan.

On Wednesday afternoon the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office responded about 5 miles into Henry's Canyon and located Melissa Rice inside of her vehicle.

At this time the Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of Melissa. The Sheriff's Office is continuing to receive information into victims of the cancer fraud. If you have any information about this case please contact the Bonneville County Sheriff's Detectives at 208-529-1375.

As a result of her death, the Bonneville County Prosecutor will dismiss the charges against Rice.

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