

SEQUIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"Personal Attention to Our Community"

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Sgt Ken Almberg
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2006

SUBJECT ARRESTED IN A STRING OF SEQUIM PURSE THEFTS

Sequim Police arrested Faith Macgreggor, 35-year old White Female, Sequim city resident at about 5:45p.m. on Friday, April 28th inside the Sequim Safeway store located at 680 West Washington Street on one count of Burglary 2nd degree and two counts of Theft in the Second degree all felonies. A total of three reported incidents were reported two of which she has admitted to.

“We have to really thank Safeway and the investment they have made in the installation of a very sophisticated security system that allowed us to use digital technology to track, confirm the commission of the crimes and have clear enough pictures to identify the suspect,” said Sequim Police Chief Robert Spinks. “Obviously it would have been tremendously more difficult to have made an arrest of this suspect, this quickly had Safeway not made the investment to upgrade their security systems when the store was renovated this past year. My hat is off to Safeway for their commitment to ensuring that their customers are safe and that when a crime does occur we can count on this corporate good neighbor to be their to assist in our investigations.”

Police recovered 2 sets of purses including credit cards, debit cards, social security cards and other personal property from the suspect’s home after her arrest. The suspect is currently under arrest for two counts of Theft in the Second degree and one count of Burglary, all of these charges are felonies. The suspect was lodged into the Clallam County Correctional Facility.

The suspect had apparently targeted elderly ladies while they were shopping at the Sequim Safeway store and would steal the victim's purse or wallet from their unattended shopping cart while the victim was distracted while shopping.

This suspect may have been involved with three separate thefts from the same location. The suspect appears to target elderly females shopping at the store, who leave their purses unattended in their shopping carts. The suspect has been seen standing next to the intended victim and then closing in to grab the purse while the victim has their attention elsewhere.

Sergeant Ken Almberg said that the Police strongly urge female shoppers to utilize purses that have a strap, and to keep that purse close to their bodies. "This is a routine warning that everyone should take seriously whether they are shopping in a grocery store or at any establishment," said Almberg. "The suspect in these crimes did not use any force against the victims to steal, but instead these crimes appear to be crimes of opportunity that had pre-planned criminal intent."

Police are afraid that there are probably other victims who may not yet realize that they have had their wallet or purse stolen. Additional reports of missing purses and wallets were being received by police late Friday evening. If you believe that you may have been a victim of a purse snatch and are missing your purse or wallet after shopping at the Sequim Safeway over the past two weeks, you are urged to call the Sequim Police Department at 683-7227.





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