

Springfield man arrested for theft of winning lottery ticket

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A 41-year old Springfield man was arrested for the alleged theft of a winning \$50,000 scratch-it ticket from the victim at a restaurant where he worked, Oregon State Police (OSP) Lottery Security Section detectives reported Monday.

Charles Dizick - MCJ photo Troopers were contacted by the victim, a 37-year old Kooskia, Idaho resident, on December 26 when she reported the theft of the winning Oregon Lottery ticket. The victim said she was dining with her son at the Denny's Restaurant located at 987 Kruse Way in Springfield after having stopped for lunch before driving to Oregon Lottery Headquarters in Salem to claim her prize on a winning \$50,000 "Green & Gold" scratch-it ticket purchased two days earlier at a Stanfield, Oregon truck stop.

The victim brought the lottery ticket inside the restaurant, tucked inside a notebook, but forgot it when she left after finishing the meal. She and her son returned about 15 minutes later to retrieve it, but the table had been cleared and the notebook was gone. The victim contacted restaurant management but was unable to determine where the notebook had gone because no one reported turning it in. 41-year old Charles Michael Dizick of Springfield, the restaurant employee who cleared the table, denied seeing or taking the notebook.

On December 27, a 21-year old Eugene man presented the stolen ticket at Oregon Lottery to claim the prize, and when questioned by an OSP detective, said that Dizick asked that him to accompany him to lottery headquarters to claim the prize because Dizick said he owed back taxes and child support. Dizick was arrested for first-degree aggravated theft and is scheduled to appear in Lane County Circuit Court later this month. The charge, a Class B felony, is punishable by up to ten years in prison and/or a fine up to \$250,000.

The victim reportedly has claimed her cash prize and returned to her Idaho home.

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