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PRESS RELEASE GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

For Immediate Release:

Garfield County, Colorado; On April 24, 2009 the Garfield County Sheriff's Office received a report of a lottery scam. The Sheriff's Office can confirm that this scam has affected citizens in Garfield County; Sheriff Lou Vallario wants citizens to be aware.

The suspects involved in this scam contact individuals explaining that they have won a large sum of money in a lottery. The suspect/suspects instruct the person that they need to pay taxes and penalties on the winnings before collecting the proceeds. This scam is followed up by multiple fraudulent phone calls and documentation by alleged government agencies, all fictitious or false contacts. No actual government agencies are involved with this scam. The suspects contact the victims several times, stating they are representatives of government agencies spanning the United States and Costa Rica, and continue to insure the victims that once the taxes and penalties are paid in full, the winnings will be released.

Local Investigators have found this scam locally has cost victims over \$500,000.

Garfield County Sheriff's Deputies are asking citizens to contact local FBI offices at 970-945-8157 if you are contacted regarding one of these scams, or for further information on these types of scams go to the FBI website at

www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm.