BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE : 09/21/10

RELEASED BY: Sgt. Jason Hail

CONTACT # : 538-7671

On September 14th, 2010 the Butte County Sheriff's Felony Investigation Unit took a report from a 95 year old female who reported that she has been contacted on several occasions by telephone by an unknown male caller reporting that he worked for a company owned by Donald Trump and that she had recently won a large sum of money. The persistent caller requested that in order for her to claim the money she was to go to her bank and take out $10,000 to pay the taxes on her winnings. The victim informed her sons of the phone calls. One of her son's is a retired law enforcement officer who, in turn, reported the incident to our department. No money was paid to the individual.

During the investigation the Suspect was contacted by telephone. In a recorded conversation the Suspect told a Detective, who was posing as an 87 year old, that he had won the $100,000 and a brand new BMW in a lottery if he would send him $10,000 by express mail. It appears that the scam is operating out of Jamaica based on the information gathered during the investigation.

The Butte County Sheriff's Department would like to take this opportunity to remind the community of such scams and to beware of unsolicited telephone calls or emails purportedly offering "free" money or goods. These operations will also solicit information on your identity. If this does occur please report it to your local law enforcement agency. In addition we also would suggest using the web sites www.IC3.gov to file a complaint and www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com to further educate yourself against fraud and other scams.