

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 922-3300
www.leoncountytso.com

DATE: 2/18/2010

Burglary Suspects Caught – More Arrests Likely

The Leon County Sheriff's Office has been investigating commercial burglaries targeting industrial and construction oriented businesses over the past few months. During these incidents, construction equipment, heavy duty machinery, antique firearms and hunting trophies have been stolen. As detectives from the Leon County Sheriff's Office compared these cases with similar cases from law enforcement agencies across the panhandle of Florida and South Georgia, they were able to establish common denominators linking cases in several jurisdictions. Communication between city, county and state law enforcement agencies has generated a collaborative effort which has included forensic examinations, analytical support, comparisons and surveillance spanning hundreds of miles in three states.

M. Incorporated, which is located at 4223 Capital Circle Northwest, reported a burglary on January 12, 2010. Nearly \$40,000.00 worth of property was taken and several thousand dollars worth of damage was done to electrical systems within the business. Burglaries were also reported at Rowe Drilling, located at 7580 West Tennessee Street and Capital Hitch, located at 7596 West Tennessee during the same time frame.

Leon County Detectives developed 30 year old **Jorge Ortega Calderon** as a suspect in the burglaries when he was identified in a surveillance video during a Walton County burglary. As a result of the coordinated efforts, numerous burglary related charges are now pending against **Calderon**, who was arrested with two other men on Friday, February 12, 2010 in Mobile, Alabama. After his arrest in Alabama, Okaloosa County Florida detectives located and recovered stolen property from burglaries in several jurisdictions, including Leon County. Members of this burglary ring are believed to be responsible for thefts totaling approximately \$600,000.00 of construction and lawn equipment since December of 2009.

This investigation includes a regional law enforcement effort named "Operation U-Haul" and includes the Bay County Sheriff's Office, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Walton County Sheriff's Office, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Panama City Beach Police Department, Panama City Police Department, Tallahassee Police Department, Thomasville Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and State Attorney Offices in the 1st, 2nd and 14th Judicial Circuits.

Sgt. James McQuaig
Office-(850) 922-3300 Fax-(850) 410-2960
Mcquaigj@leoncountyfl.gov

The Leon County Sheriff's Office Has Obtained Arrest Warrants For:

Jorge Ortega Calderon - DOB: 07/05/1979



Charges:

Burglary of a Structure Armed with a Firearm
Grand Theft over \$20,000.00
Criminal Mischief over \$1,000.00

Detectives are continuing their efforts in anticipation of additional charges against **Calderon** and others. **Calderon** is currently being held in Mobile, Alabama pending extradition to Florida.

Sgt. James McQuaig
Office-(850) 922-3300 Fax-(850) 410-2960
Mcquaigj@leoncountyfl.gov



Sheriff Mike Adkinson

JOINT OCSO/WCSO NEWS RELEASE February 18, 2010



Sheriff Ed Spooner

Three people are in custody as investigators with law enforcement agencies across Northwest Florida begin dismantling the workings of an organized, aggressive theft ring operating in our region and beyond.

As a result of their coordinated efforts, numerous burglary charges are pending against three men taken into custody Friday, February 12th in Mobile Alabama. The three are believed responsible for stealing at least 600-thousand dollars worth of construction and high-end lawn maintenance equipment from area businesses since December .

Additional charges are pending as the scope of the suspects activity is identified.

The investigation was sparked in early January when investigators and crime intelligence analysts from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Walton County Sheriff's Office began cooperating on solving high-value thefts with similar patterns. Within a week of identifying a possible suspect, the burglary group was active in Thomasville, Georgia, and Tallahassee and Leon County, Florida.

The probe eventually expanded to include a cooperative regional effort dubbed "Operation U-Haul" that includes the Bay County Sheriff's Office, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Panama City Beach Police Department, Panama City Police Department, Tallahassee Police Department, Thomasville Georgia Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, State Attorney Offices in the 1st, 2nd, and 14th Judicial Circuits, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE.

The mode of operation was to focus on stealing large amounts of high-priced construction equipment such as heavy duty trucks, a bobcat, air tool hammers, and the like. Investigators say some weapons were also stolen during the heists. Investigators also say the suspects took the stolen items out of state. Some details of the case will not be released at this time due to the ongoing nature of the investigation.

The Okaloosa and Walton Sheriff's Offices want to express their gratitude for the hard work and invaluable assistance provided to date by the many participating law enforcement agencies.



Sheriff Mike Adkinson

JOINT OCSO/WCSO NEWS RELEASE



Sheriff Ed Spooner

PAGE TWO

Those arrested so far are:

30-year old Jorge Alberto Ortega-Calderson of
2237 Monahan Court, Fort Walton Beach

24-year old Gerald Roches of 2237 Monahan
Court, Fort Walton Beach

36-year old Francisco Javier Bonilla of 2237
Monahan Court, Fort Walton Beach

All three are currently in the Mobile County Jail
and have warrants in Okaloosa County for bur-
glary and grand theft.