



Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Copper Wire Theft Arrest

In January 2008 Leon County Sheriff's Office Detectives Shannon Black and Scott Sullivan began to receive leads in several copper wire thefts. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Terry F. Laton Jr., Wendell L. Henderson Jr., Thaddues Jakubowicz, Joshua Johnson, Chad Alday, and Henry Williamson were involved in several commercial burglaries involving the theft of large amounts of copper. Some of these burglaries occurred outside of Leon County, with some occurring in Georgia and Alabama. One burglary in particular occurred in Valdosta, Georgia, at Valdosta Tech. This incident was confirmed with the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office; \$46,000.00 of copper was taken.

During subsequent interviews, it was confirmed that these subjects were involved in numerous commercial burglaries in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Copper wire was stolen during each of these burglaries. The copper was then stripped of its insulation and sold as scrap.

The burglaries in Leon County include:

1. Herron Steel - Oct. 2006. Stolen was approximately \$5000.00 worth of copper and tools.
2. Diversified Electric - July, 2007. Stolen was 17,000' of metal clad copper wire.
3. Costco Construction Site - Dec. 2007 / Jan. 2008. Stolen was 108,000' of copper wire and power tools.
4. Culpepper Electric - Dec. 2007. Stolen was 12,000' of copper wire, power tools, and a utility trailer.
5. Southwood School Construction Site - Dec. 2007. Stolen was 342,000' of copper wire and power tools.

The total value of items known stolen from Leon County was approximately \$148,636.00. These copper thefts have resulted in 77 Felony charges being levied against the following subjects;

1. Joshua L. Johnson - 07/13/1976 (6 Counts of Burglary and 3 Counts of Grand Theft) (Wanted may be in Moultrie or Pelham Georgia)
2. Wendell L. Henderson - 07/17/1979 (In Jail charged with 16 Counts of Burglary, 8 Counts of Grand Theft, 4 Counts Dealing in Stolen Property, 2 Counts of Use of Forged/Altered ID and 1 Count of Criminal Mischief)

3. Thaddeus J. Jakubowicz – 03/16/1983 In Jail charged with 9 Counts of Burglary and 5 Counts of Grand Theft)
4. Chad Alday – 03/29/1980 (In jail charged with 9 Counts of Burglary and 5 Counts of Grand Theft)
5. Henry L. Williamson – 04/02/1962 (In jail charged with 2 Counts of Burglary and Count 1 of Grand Theft)
6. Terry F. Laton – 03/03/1979 (In jail charged with 2 Counts Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle, 4 Counts of Burglary, 3 Counts Credit Card Theft/Use and 5 Counts of Grand Theft)



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