



Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Larry Campbell

Sheriff

Sgt. Tony Drzewiecki

Public Information Office

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Recovered Stolen Copper Wire

On Wednesday, March 5th, 2008 Burglary Detective John Rudd received information from the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office concerning a possible theft of spools of heavy copper wire from the Talquin Electric Cooperative in Leon County. A check of all the Talquin Electric facilities in Leon County led to the discovery that the location at 326 Crossway Road had been burglarized during the night. Video revealed three suspects entering the business and stealing several thousand dollars worth of heavy copper wire. The information from the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office led Leon County Detectives and Gadsden County Sheriff's Detectives to Ace Salvage in Midway, Florida. While at Ace Salvage detectives discovered 1,025 pounds of copper wire, which had just been sold to the business. After following several investigative leads it was determined that the 1,025 pounds of copper was the same copper stolen from Talquin Electric. Detectives also were able to identify Dwight Thomas, Jimmy Williams and Kenny Moran as suspects in these thefts. Dwight Thomas and Jimmy Williams were located and each confessed to the theft and the selling of the copper at Ace Salvage. They were arrested for Burglary of a Structure and Grand Theft. Detectives are still looking for Kenny Moran and warrants will be forthcoming for his arrest.

Sheriff Larry Campbell said "worldwide demand for copper has driven prices up, like silver or gold. Most criminals target construction sites, vacant homes and air conditioners, then try to sell the copper to local scrap yards -- anything containing copper are at risk of being stolen. As in this case; local law enforcement communicate with each other to track down and arrest copper thieves."



Dwight Thomas
DOB: 07/09/1985
Charges: Burglary of a Structure and Grand Theft.



Jimmy Williams
DOB: 03/04/1988
Charges: Burglary of a Structure and Grand Theft.



1,025 Pounds of recovered copper wire valued at \$ 5500.00



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