

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2009

Sheriff Jimmy Harris reports that DeKalb County Investigators have arrested a group of individuals for the thefts of 4-wheeler ATVs and vehicles in DeKalb County. Investigators have been pursuing leads for several weeks on various thefts and burglaries. Some of the ATVs have been recovered as well as a 7 x 12 utility trailer and two vehicles. These thefts occurred over the last few months. Six individuals were arrested on burglary and theft charges, one individual was arrested on marijuana possession charges, and all seven were placed in the DeKalb County Detention Center. There are 22 charges at this time for these individuals and this investigation has carried over into Fort Payne, where city investigators are working several theft and burglary charges as well. The scope of these thefts has expanded into Tennessee and Georgia, where Drug Task Force agents and Sheriff's Investigators recovered some of these vehicles. While attempting to recover the ATVs, agents found a large amount of marijuana and arrested one suspect. The individuals involved in these thefts are all familiar with each other and it appears that different members of this group participated in some of the thefts but not all of them.

Arrested in this investigation were the following:

- David Mark Tanner, 26, of Sylvania: 5 counts Theft of Property 1st
(released on \$50,000 bond)
- Gary Dejuan Higdon, 22, of Valley Head: 3 counts Theft of Property 1st, 1 count Theft of Property 2nd, 1 count Burglary 3rd
(released on \$10,000 bond)
- Corey Don Robbins, 20, of Rainsville: 4 counts Theft of Property 1st, 1 count Theft of Property 2nd, 1 count Burglary 3rd
(remains in jail on \$21,000 bond)
- Jimmy Ray Walker, 27, of Sylvania: 2 counts Theft of Property 1st
(remains in jail on \$37,678 bond)
- Jamie Ray Bates, 23, of Sylvania: 1 count Receiving Stolen Property 1st, 1 count Theft of Property 1st
(remains in jail on \$20,000 bond)
- Christopher Allen Guinn, 22, of Fort Payne: 1 count Theft of Property 1st
(released on \$10,000 bond)
- Craig Bodiford, 37, of Rainsville: 1 count Unlawful Possession of Marijuana 1st
(remains in jail without bond at this time)

During the course of this investigation, we determined that additional ATVs were targeted for theft but were abandoned because they were heavily secured or chained, so it is very important to secure your property. Also, recovering stolen property becomes very difficult when the victims can't provide serial numbers for their items. ATVs have VIN numbers but are not required to have a tag, so people don't have to register them. If you can get the description and VIN for any vehicle you own, including ATVs and watercraft, and put the descriptions in a secure place, it would prove helpful if you are ever victimized.

The property recovered in this investigation to date is being returned to its rightful owners and this investigation is ongoing.

