

Joseph K. Lester
Sheriff



Office of the Cleveland County Sheriff

DATE: Monday, April 12, 2010

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Detective Scott A. Singer
Office: 405-366-5753
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Sheriff Joe Lester released this information today.

“DETECTIVES BUST THREE IN SCRAP METAL SCAM”

Cleveland County Detectives, investigating a reported fraud involving the sale of a truck, discovered that three and possibly more Cleveland County residents were involved in the theft and fraudulent acquisition of vehicles, to be sold as scrap metal.

The investigation began when a Lexington man reported that he had sold a truck to another man, but the buyer never paid for the vehicle. Detectives learned that immediately following the sale, the truck was taken to a Lexington salvage yard and sold for scrap metal.

Following leads from the original complaint, Detectives discovered that several persons were additionally involved in obtaining scrap vehicles – described as of classic age – from rural property in the Lexington area and selling those vehicles as scrap. The vehicles included two classic 50's model Chevrolet cars, a 1948 Hudson Hornet, and a Studebaker pickup truck.

Charges are expected to be filed Monday against the three Lexington residents for Obtaining Property by False or Bogus Means, Larceny of Motor Vehicles, and Conspiracy to Commit Felony Crimes.

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“THREE CHARGED IN THEFT OF CARS FOR SCRAP”

Cleveland County Detectives, investigating a reported fraud involving the sale of a truck, discovered that three Cleveland County residents were involved in the theft and fraudulent acquisition of vehicles, to be sold as scrap metal.

Charged in Cleveland County District Court with two counts of Larceny of a Motor Vehicle and one count each of Conspiracy to Commit Felony Crimes were Michael W. Wilkins, 42, and Joshua K. Gabehart, 19, both of Lexington. Additional charges were filed against Robert M. Jeffrey, 30, also of Lexington for one count of Larceny of a Motor Vehicle and one count of Conspiracy to Commit a Felony Crime.