

PRESS RELEASE

The Grady County Sheriff's Department has been conducting an on-going investigation in and around the Rush Springs area which began in November 2010 to present date. . During this time numerous vehicle and residential burglaries were being reported. Sheriff's deputies and investigators were assigned the area to patrol and survey by Sheriff Kell. Sheriff Kell met with many of the victims of these crimes and initiated efforts that concentrated primarily in apprehending the suspects involved. Items stolen were: coins, GPS, gold bars, lap-top computers, camcorder, football helmets, cordless drills and DVD.

Most of the items stolen were traced to pawn shops in the Duncan and Lawton area. Video surveillance tapes were also obtained displaying suspects' redeeming gold bars and coins for cash at a local bank and area pawn shops. Cash was being used for purchasing narcotics, one suspect admitted. Sheriff's Investigators passed on information obtained from the suspects to the Rush Springs Police Department concerning thefts that had occurred in the Rush Springs City limits.

After months of investigation, warrants have been issued for Robert Meadows, Benjamin Brown and Donald Franklin. These suspects are believed to be ring-leaders in these crimes perpetrated over this time span. Arrest warrants were served on Robert Meadows and Benjamin Brown, residents of Rush Springs and Donald Franklin who is now a fugitive and was unable to be found, on Friday 18th, 2011 shortly before noon. The warrants were issued for Grand Larceny; Knowingly Concealing Stolen Property and Second Degree Burglary. Several of the items stolen in these crimes have been recovered and returned to property owners.

Meadows warrant was for one count of concealing stolen property; Browns warrants were 4 counts of 2nd Degree Burglary. Both were released on bond Friday afternoon: Meadows was set at \$2000, Brown set at \$3500 and initial court appearance set for March 9th, 2011 at 1:30pm.

Efforts in solving the crimes and identifying the suspects are contributed largely by the cooperation and information obtained from the residents' in and around Rush Springs! The importance of community assistance, awareness and involvement; that without this close relationship with the people of Grady County, law-enforcements' efforts are greatly hindered.

Sheriff Kell states several other areas within Grady County are involved in similar investigations into copper thefts, as well as; residential burglaries and larceny of farm equipment. His department solicits any information in regards to crimes and pledges the same efforts will continue, to pursue those individuals who disregard the rights of others and perpetrate crimes in Grady County.

As for the Rush Springs area the investigation is continuing with the expectation of several other affidavits being submitted for arrest' in connection to this ongoing investigation.