

MEDIA RELEASE

For more information:

Sheriff Fred Newman
Washington County Sheriff's Office
Abingdon, Virginia 24210

For immediate release to all media:

Two individuals have been arrested by the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the City of Bristol, Virginia Police Department for multiple breaking and entering, grand larceny and conspiracy. These charges stemmed from break-ins of ten residences in Washington County and five residences in the City of Bristol, Virginia.

According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, Matthew Lawton Headden, age 21, 13 15th Street, Bristol, Tennessee and Thomas Dwight Hill, age 44, 327 Park Street, Apartment 5, Bristol, Virginia were taken into custody by officers from the Sheriff's Office and City of Bristol and are presently being held in the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail. Headden is being held on a \$10,000 bond and Hill is being held without bond. As a result of this investigation, Armon Neal Beavers, age 67, 20130 Saffron Lane, Bristol, Virginia was charged with receiving and possession of a firearm by a felon after receiving one of the stolen firearms from the group.

Sheriff Newman said, "This was a cooperative effort by the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department which resulted in the sixty-three warrants against the two individuals and the recovery of some of the stolen property." Sheriff Newman stated that approximately \$20,000 of property was taken during these numerous daylight breaking and entering. This included firearms, television, jewelry, computers and other household items. The officers involved in this investigation are continuing their efforts to recover all the stolen property.

"All these break-ins occurred during daylight hours while the home owner was absence", said Sheriff Newman. These individuals would forcefully enter the residence and remove items that could immediately be handled.

Breaking and entering and grand larceny are punishable by confinement in a state correctional facility for not less than one or more than twenty years. Conspiracy is punishable as a class five felony, a term of imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than ten years in a state correctional facility.

Preliminary hearing is scheduled in the Washington County General District Court, Abingdon, Virginia.

There will be a news conference held at 2:00 pm tomorrow, December 10, 2009, in the conference room at the Washington County Sheriff's Office. All media are invited to attend.

