



**Office of the Sheriff
Montgomery County, Tennessee
Norman Lewis, Sheriff**

www.mcsotn.org



PRESS RELEASE – January 15, 2009

Deputies make arrest in local business burglaries

On January 13, 2009, at approximately 10:48 P.M., the Tennessee Highway Patrol located a suspicious vehicle on I-24 at the Tennessee Rest Area. As State Trooper Todd Pitts approached the pickup truck, the driver fled the scene. The driver crashed the truck and began to flee on foot. After a short foot pursuit, the driver was taken into custody by the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The truck and the crime scene were processed by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Response Team.

A search warrant on the vehicle was executed by Sgt. Mark Wojnarek and Investigator Josh Wall. Items recovered in the vehicle include burglary tools and weapons believed to be used by Robert Wayne Cooper in the Red River Concrete Block and Lui Heimansohn scrap metals burglaries.

Cooper has been charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools, unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon, theft of property, alteration of a serial number on a weapon, simple possession of marijuana, and unlawful drug paraphernalia.

Sheriff's Investigators have been conducting an extensive investigation since Cooper walked away during a work detail late last summer. Cooper is currently housed in the Montgomery County Jail on other charges and will be arraigned in General Sessions Court on these charges January 16, 2009.

An investigation of further charges is on-going.

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PRESS RELEASE – November 5, 2008

Sheriff Lewis brings VINE/SAVIN program to Montgomery County

Montgomery County residents now have fast access to custody information on offenders throughout the county. Sheriff Lewis has launched VINE/SAVIN, an automated service citizens can access 24-hours-a-day either by telephone or the Internet.

“Protecting the citizens of Montgomery County is always our highest priority,” said Sheriff Lewis. “Tennessee VINE/SAVIN provides an added level of protection because it gives everyone access to timely and accurate information on offenders in our county, and throughout the state. We’re delighted that we could make this important service available to the public.”

People calling 1-888-868-4631 are asked to provide an offender’s name or booking number. After the system has provided the relevant custody information, it asks the caller if they would like to register to be automatically notified when the offender is released or transferred. Those choosing to register provide a phone number, and a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), which they will later use to confirm the notification call.

Live operator assistance is available round-the-clock for callers who have questions or require additional help. Citizens can also go on line at www.vinelink.com to locate and register.

“Tennessee VINE/SAVIN is definitely designed with the victim in mind. It’s very user-friendly,” Sheriff Lewis said. “What makes it special is the automatic notification feature – as long as you’ve got a telephone or a computer, you can receive an automated alert anytime of the day or night. That kind of protection is critically important to anyone who’s concerned about the whereabouts of an offender.”

Since 2005, the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) grant program has nearly doubled the number of states providing automated victim notification.

The goal of the SAVIN program is to increase public safety and improve basic criminal justice decisions by ensuring that victims are given timely and accurate information that both enhances their ability to protect themselves, and ensures they are able to fully participate in the criminal justice process.

VINE/SAVIN is being offered to all Tennessee counties. As of this date, the service has been implemented in 21 counties.

VINE/SAVIN is a nationwide service used in more than 40 states. This includes some of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and Washington, D.C.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating accountability of projects; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision-makers at every level.

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