



PRESS RELEASE

Case #13-505630

Detectives Capture Prolific Truck Thief

April 18, 2013-Sheriff's Detectives recovered four stolen vehicles and arrested three people. The arrests were made in a rural forested area in western Washington County where the stolen vehicles were recovered.

Over the past few months, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies have responded to several vehicle thefts where the thieves were targeting 1984 through 1988 Toyota four wheel drive pickups and Toyota 4Runners. There have been similar thefts in neighboring counties and cities. Washington County Property Crimes Detectives began assisting Sheriff's Deputies with the investigation.

On April 17, 2013, Sheriff's Detectives located three stolen trucks on NW Green Mountain Road in the community of Buxton. The trucks had been severely abused, damaged, and abandoned deep in the remote heavily wooded area. Some of the trucks were missing parts rendering them inoperable.

At about 4:15 p.m., Sheriff's Detectives were on NW Green Mountain Road waiting for a tow truck to arrive and recover the trucks. Prior to the tow truck's arrival, detectives saw three people in a different Toyota pickup attach a rope to one of the stolen trucks and begin to tow it away. Detectives and deputies quickly converged on the truck and contacted two men who remained with the truck.

The female passenger, identified as Cheryl Williams, 59, from Forest Grove, ran into the woods. A Sheriff's K9 "Stark" and handler responded and after about two hours of searching, located Ms. Williams who was lying down in the woods. She was suffering from a pre-existing medical condition and was transported to a local hospital by ground ambulance.

Detectives identified the two remaining men as Matthew Taylor, 27, and Thomas White, 28, both from Forest Grove. Matthew Taylor is Cheryl Williams' son. Matthew Taylor and Thomas White were both arrested and each charged with violating their parole and Criminal Trespass. They are both held without bail in the Washington County Jail. Cheryl Williams has not been charged with a crime.

As Sheriff's Detectives were finishing processing evidence and interviewing the individuals involved, a 1988 Toyota pickup was seen driving toward them on NW Green Mountain Road at the location where the stolen trucks were discovered.

The Toyota truck quickly turned around and attempted to flee the area at a high rate of speed on the narrow, winding, gravel road. As Sheriff's Detectives caught up to the Toyota, a large Cop's Towing tow truck filled the narrow roadway blocking the escape path of the fleeing truck.

Sheriff's Detectives detained Michael Robinson, 29, from Buxton without further incident. The Toyota pickup driven by Mr. Robinson was reported stolen out of Tillamook.

Detectives believe Mr. Robinson is responsible for the majority of stolen trucks discovered in the area. Michael Robinson was arrested and charged with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), and for violating his parole. He is held on \$20,000 bail.

Sheriff's Detectives are continuing this investigation as there are more stolen vehicles that match this description that have yet to be located and returned to their rightful owners. Additional charges may be filed as the investigation progresses. If you have any information concerning this case, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 846-2500.



Michael Robinson



Matthew Taylor



Thomas White