



September 7, 2010

THREE ARRESTED FOR MULTIPLE CHURCH BURGLARIES

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has arrested three people in connection with a series of church burglaries that took place across North Okaloosa County in recent months.

Those charged are: 18-year old Christopher Talbert of 4770 Rolling Field Lane in Holt, 19-year old Mark Daniel Van Schmidt of 3643 Grady Johnson Road in Crestview, and 18-year old Hollie Schumpert of 3643 Grady Johnson Road.

Six North Okaloosa churches were burglarized. The primary items target was electronic items such as church music soundboards, amplifiers, and speakers. In most cases, entry was gained by excessive pulling or pushing of the exterior doors.

While responding to one of the burglaries July 28th at New Ebenezer Baptist Church, a deputy located an ATM receipt. It was determined to belong to one of the co-defendants, Mark Van Schmidt. Church members were able to positively identify Van Schmidt as someone who had attended at least one church service prior to the burglary with someone named "Chris".

Most of the stolen property has been recovered and returned to the rightful owners. Additional stolen property was thrown out underneath a small bridge in Milligan or taken to a music/pawn shop in Covington Alabama and sold.

Multiple warrants for burglary and theft were served on Talbert on Monday, September 6th; on Schumpert Sunday, September 5th, and on Van Schmidt on Thursday, September 3rd.



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Okaloosa County



Sheriff's Office

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