

# Media Release

**Yavapai County Sheriff's Office**

**Scott Mascher – Sheriff**

255 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Dwight D'Evelyn - Media Coordinator

928-777-7441



**October 2, 2014**

## *K9 Traffic Stop results in 3 Arrests involving a Large Multi-State Retail Fraud Scheme Operation*

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On September 30, 2014, YCSO K-9 deputies stopped a newer gray Dodge Charger sedan travelling on Interstate 40 near Ash Fork for traffic violations. When the deputy approached the vehicle, the odor of Marijuana was detected. A K9 alert also confirmed the presence of drugs inside the vehicle. Deputies detained the three male occupants who are all from the Oklahoma area. A search of the vehicle to locate the source of the odor was conducted. Deputies discovered a useable quantity of marijuana along with a vacuum bag sealer and rolls of plastic bags likely intended to package large quantities of marijuana.

During further examination of the interior, deputies found a handheld scanner commonly used in retail stores, a variety of apparently fraudulent Wal-Mart receipts, a thermal printer loaded with a blank roll of Wal-Mart receipts, a laptop computer, a lock pick, a demagnetizer device designed to deactivate security tags in high priced retail store merchandise, and a power inverter to provide power from a vehicle to devices requiring AC. Deputies also found brand new boxed items including expensive sport



cameras, wireless cameras, DVD sets, rifle sights, and clothing. Based on the initial review of evidence seized, all three occupants were believed to be involved in large organized retail fraud scheme. Some of the fraudulent receipts reviewed were stamped identifying the Wal-Mart in Flagstaff. Other receipts were from various stores around the around the US.

Wal-Mart security/loss prevention personnel were contacted and provided an agent to meet with deputies to assist in the investigation. PANT detectives were also assigned to assist.

At this time, it appears the suspects used the equipment recovered as part of a fraud scheme to alter receipts and merchandise UPC tags in order to return already stolen Wal-Mart property for cash. The investigation is ongoing to learn in detail how the suspects conducted their operation. The 2014 Dodge Charger had been recently purchased and was impounded along with nearly \$2000 in cash.

All 3 occupants from the vehicle, now suspects, were arrested, and booked into the Camp Verde Detention Center on the following charges:

James Toles, age 23, of Oklahoma City, OK, was charged with 16 Felony counts including Possession of Marijuana, Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Burglary Tools, Unlawful Alteration of a UPC Code label Forgery-10 counts, Aggravated Taking the ID of Another, Theft and , Open Alcohol Container-misdemeanor. He remains in-custody on a \$25,000 bond.

Andre Chaney Jr, age 22, of Oklahoma City, OK, was charged with the same 16 Felony counts and 1 Misedmeanor count. Chaney remains in-custody on a \$20,000 bond.

Robert Schnitker, age 23, of Oklahoma City, Ok was charged the same offenses with the additional charge of Altering Physical Evidence as he was destroying some of the receipts in view of deputies prior to his detention. He remains in-custody on a \$20,000 bond.

**Additional charges are pending for crimes in Coconino County, Arizona, and within certain areas of Oklahoma. Detectives are actively seeking additional commercial business victims, Wal-Mart or otherwise, anywhere between Arizona and Oklahoma who may have been victimized by these suspects.**

*Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:*

[www.vcsoaz.gov](http://www.vcsoaz.gov)