

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
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May 12, 2015 – Update - Suspect identified and being sought

YCSO Seeking Identity Theft Suspects

Since the original media release issued April 29, 2015, YCSO deputies have been working with partnering law enforcement agencies and identified one of the suspects in this case. He is 27-year-old Andy Lawton who is associated with the suspect vehicle – a grey 2012 Jeep Patriot displaying a Texas license plate of BJV0868. Lawton is from the Prescott area, but may be residing in Phoenix. Lawton has an active probation violation warrant. Lawton and at least one additional suspect have been making credit cards with stolen identification information purchased/obtained via the internet. The fraudulent cards have been used in both Prescott and Phoenix area businesses.



Andy Lawton

YCSO would like to locate Lawton quickly and is urging anyone with information to call Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232 or the Sheriff's Office at 928-771-3260. Refer to case number 15-014223.

April 29, 2015 - This release was delayed pending receipt of security video.

On April 21, 2015, an 82-year-old woman and Chino Valley resident reported identity theft to YCSO deputies. The victim indicated that her bank had recently contacted her regarding a suspicious attempt to purchase clothing at a men's clothing store in Phoenix with her credit card. After she told the bank representative she did not purchase anything at this store, the bank closed her account. A few days later, the victim obtained her bank statement and saw additional fraudulent purchases occurring twice at Robert's Market, 6450 N. Viewpoint in Prescott Valley and a Sunglass Hut store in Phoenix.



Suspect vehicle

The deputy was eventually able to obtain security video associated with the 2 transactions at Robert's Market which occurred on the same day, April 16th – one around 7:15PM and the other just before midnight. The total cost at Robert's was \$150.00 which included gas, drinks and cigarettes. The suspect vehicle pictured appears to be a gray colored Jeep Patriot and contained at least 3 persons, 2 of whom exited the back seat of the Jeep and entered the store to make purchases – see photo.

The victim explained that she recently received an email contact from a person claiming to represent her bank and requesting personal information to “fix” her accounts. It appears the suspects used information she provided to create a bank card with her account information used at the indicated locations.

If anyone recognizes these suspects and/or their vehicle, you are urged to contact Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232 or the Sheriff's Office at 928-771-3260. With Silent Witness, you never have to leave your name and become eligible for a cash reward in the tip leads to an arrest. Case number is 15-014223.

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

www.ycsoaz.gov