

Beginning spring of 2010, we have seen an increase in crime throughout Grady County. Our investigators and deputies are working diligently on cases and it seems to never end. All illegal drug crimes are on the rise, thieves are more active than ever, alcohol consumption is increasing in all ages. It all revolves around people making good choices and being responsible.

As Sheriff I have directed my deputies to work on solving as many cases of theft if possible. Some of the thieves are brought to justice, only to be let out to pick up where they left off. Some are not charged, some are not investigated by law enforcement and most steal over again.

People would have no idea how many theft laws and charges there are; let me give you several examples. LARCENY DEFINED: Larceny is the taking of personal property accomplished by fraud or stealth, and with intent to deprive another thereof. Title 21 1720; Automobile or equipment theft, not less than 3 years and no more than 20 years in the penitentiary and a fine of 3 times the value of the property not more than \$500,000. Title 21 1731; Larceny of merchandise from retailer or wholesaler, one is petit larceny which is \$500 or less in value penalty is up to 6 months in the county jail and \$500 fine. Grand larceny of \$500 or more is a felony and not more than 5 years in the state penitentiary. Larceny of written instrument, larceny of passage ticket, grand larceny in night time from person is a felony not more than 10 years in prison, stealing animals such as fish and game, exotic livestock, larceny of cattle, horses, chickens and domestic animals, larceny of dogs, larceny of gasoline, obtaining property by trick or deception and ect. Understand that stealing or removing copper shall be punishable in prison for not less than 1 year and no more than 5 years. If you steal copper you have to sell it for money, now the law states; possessing, receiving or transporting stolen copper in Title 21-1728; "get this" any person who shall receive, transport, or possess in this state stolen copper wire, copper cable, or copper tubing under such circumstances that he knew or should have known that the same was stolen shall upon conviction thereof be guilty of a felony and shall be confined in the state penitentiary for a term of not less than one year nor more than five years. Every person receiving stolen property in any manner is guilty of a felony and punishment of up to 5 years in the state penitentiary.

Our department says a thief is a thief no matter what they take or attempt to take. A thief has been around since the beginning of time and is the lowest form of human life around. The Roman government crucified two men for crimes

of theft along with an innocent man. One thief told the innocent man (Jesus Christ), "we deserve our punishment for our crimes." Copper seems to be the choice for thieves since the price ranges from sixty cents to \$3 per pound. A thief is the hardest person to catch; they are by far harder to catch than a drug dealer. As Sheriff, we are going to concentrate our investigations on thieves along with other low forms of criminals against law abiding citizens.

If you see someone with copper or any other metals, please contact the Sheriff's Department and give us the information. Your name will never be used in our report, it's all confidential. Sheriff Kell