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VEHICLE BREAK- INS RESULT IN MULTIPLE CHARGES

Friday, March 25, 2011---The Siloam Springs Police Department has arrested three juveniles and one adult in connection with more than a dozen vehicle break-in and theft charges the past month in Siloam Springs. The majority of the vehicle break-ins occurred in the Patriot Park and Ravenwood Subdivisions from vehicles which were left unlocked during the overnight hours, with valuables inside.

The initial arrests came after officers observed a vehicle suspected to be involved in the thefts near the Ravenwood Subdivision about 3:30 a.m. on March 24, 2011. As officers attempted to stop the vehicle for a traffic violation, the vehicle fled. A short time later, officers located and stopped the vehicle (Black, 1997 Mitsubishi Eclipse) at 1001 S. Madison. The two occupants of the vehicle (both age 16) were initially arrested on fleeing charges and possession of drug paraphernalia and transported to Benton County Juvenile Detention Center.

Continued investigation resulted in a search of the vehicle which revealed several receipts and packaging from items purchased with a stolen debit card from one of the vehicle break-ins. A search of the residence resulted in the seizure of items purchased with the stolen debit card, as well as stolen iPods, cell phones, GPS's, bicycles, a handgun and other items believed to have been stolen from vehicles within Siloam Springs. A third juvenile was arrested at the residence and charged with Theft/Theft by Receiving and Forgery. The owner of the vehicle, Michael Wheaton (age 18) who also stayed at the residence was later arrested and charged with theft by receiving and forgery/fraudulent use of a debit card.

A fourth juvenile (female age 15) was staying at the residence but has not been charged with any crime at this time.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are pending as detectives determine the ownership of the property seized. The Siloam Springs Police Department would like to remind citizens to keep their vehicles locked and remove valuables from their vehicles.

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