



News Release

August 24, 2011

FORGERY ARREST

Washington County Sheriff Tim HELDER advises deputies recently arrested one suspect on several Forgery, Drug and Theft of Property charges.

On August 22, 2011 Washington County Sheriff's Office detectives arrested **Ronald Lee WEBB**, W/M, 42 of West Fork, AR. on four (4) counts of ***FORGERY 2nd***, ***CONSPIRACY to COMMIT FORGERY 2nd***, ***CRIMINAL POSSESSION of a FORGERY DEVICE***, thirteen (13) counts of ***THEFT of PROPERTY, POSSESSION of a CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE – XANAX (SCHEDULE 4)***, and ***POSSESSION of DRUG PARAPHERNALIA***.

Since mid-June, 2011 Washington County deputies have taken several reports from residents living in rural Washington County reporting theft of mail from their mailboxes. Residents also reported numerous checks they had originally made payable to utility companies, for medical bills and other miscellaneous bills, had resurfaced as being passed at various Wal-Mart stores in the Northwest Arkansas area. Detectives were able to view video footage from some of the Wal-Mart stores and identified Ronald **WEBB** as the person passing the stolen checks. It was suspected **WEBB** was "washing the checks", a phrase commonly used when someone removes the ink from the paper.

Detectives with the Sheriff's Office conducted surveillance on **WEBB** and followed him to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Springdale, AR. **WEBB** was seen attempting to pass a payroll check at the

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business. The payroll check was later discovered to be stolen from a rural Washington County resident's mailbox. Detectives followed **WEBB** to the E-Z Mart located on S. School in Fayetteville, AR and arrested him for FORGERY 2nd. At the time of his arrest, **WEBB** had in his possession one full bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol, which had four (4) stolen checks from rural Washington County residents inside it. Some of the hand printed ink was being removed by this process. Also found in **WEBB**'s possession was one (1) empty bottle of Isopropyl Alcohol cut in half, one (1) bottle of Goo Gone, one (1) bottle of Oxi Clean, one (1) bottle of PB Flashpoint formula, five (5) checks (Arvest and First Security Bank), two (2) Wal-Mart Gift Cards, two (2) Wal-Mart Money Cards, four (4) Wal-Mart Receipts, six (6) BD Insulin Syringes, twelve (12) suspected Xanax Bars (broken), and one (1) pipe containing suspected Marijuana residue.

When **WEBB** was read his rights and interviewed, he confessed to stealing multiple checks from mailboxes. He estimated he passed twenty (20) checks at various Wal-Mart stores in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Rogers. The investigation is continuing.

Suggestions on How to Prevent This from Happening to You:

- Criminals look for mailboxes with the flag up because they know there could potentially be checks in the mailbox, so when you pay your bills, drop your payments off at the Post Office.
- Use pigmented ink when writing checks. These special pens prevent criminals from being able to wash the ink from your check. You can find them at any office supply store. One popular pen is a Uni-ball pen called the Uni 270 Super Ink.
- Try to use on-line Bill Pay whenever possible.

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