



Office of Ross County Sheriff

GEORGE W. LAVENDER, JR., SHERIFF

ROSS COUNTY-CHILLICOTHE
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
28 NORTH PAINT STREET
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601

Emergency.....911
Service Calls.....773-1185
Civil Division & Records..773-1186
Sheriff773-1186
Jail & Jail Records773-1187
Detective Bureau773-1188
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News Release

02/03/2014

Sheriff Lavender reports that two of his detectives (Joe Addy and John Winfield) have made a breakthrough in the recent string of churches that have been broken into in the Ross County/Chillicothe area.

Early on in the investigation 26 year old Cash M. Yoakem became a suspect and investigators began following up on leads.

On 01/25/2014 Mr. Yoakem and his wife Heather Yoakem were arrested in connection with the Breaking and Entering of a car wash in Laurelville, Ohio. The two were arrested and incarcerated at the Southeast Regional Jail. A car wash and church had been broken into in Kingston on 01/23/2014 and the details of both car washes matched.

Investigators traveled to the Regional Jail in Nelsonville, Ohio and interviewed Mr. Yoakem. Mr. Yoakem admitted to most of the church break-ins that have occurred in Ross County in the last few months. Investigators took Mr. Yoakem from the jail and transported him to Ross County. Mr. Yoakem took investigators to multiple locations totaling 41 Breaking and Entering's that he had committed in Ross County. This includes twenty-five locations that were churches.

Investigators are working with local Pawn Shops, and Cash Advance Stores to recover numerous pieces of stolen property.

The investigation into this matter is on-going, investigators are still following up on leads, and there are other suspects that will likely face charges.

Sheriff Lavender requests that the community continues to call in with any tips related to this matter. These tips can be given to the Sheriff's Office at 740-773-1185 or Southern Ohio Crime Stoppers at 740-773-TIPS (8477).

