



# News Release

Thurston County Sheriff  
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"Creating a Safer Community  
Together."

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** 01/20/2009

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## **3 arrested in \$200K fraud. Other victims possible**

Detectives were alerted on Thursday (011509), that suspects involved in \$200,000 fraud and extortion investigation had re-contacted the 78 yr. old victim, had forced their way into his home and were attempting to get more money from him by telling him he would lose his home if he didn't pay them. Detectives set up a surveillance in the area of the victim's home, on Loganberry St. near Rochester, on Friday (011609) morning. The 3 suspects arrived with the victim and were taken into custody without incident.

The suspects are identified as Calvin A. Bickford, age 48, Tony R. Willis, age 35 and Adam R. Willis, age 35. All three were booked into the Thurston County Jail on charges of Residential Burglary and Attempted Theft 1<sup>st</sup> degree. They are being held without bail until they can appear before a judge. Documents located in their vehicle indicates they may have been conducting business in Oregon, Idaho, and New Mexico.

The Sheriff's Office has been investigating this fraud case since May 2008, when the victim contacted police about the swindle thru his local bank. The suspects were trying to sell the victim a replacement mobile home and kept asking for more money in amounts ranging from \$15,000 to nearly \$40,000.00 at a time but never producing the promised mobile home. They told the victim his home needed to be demolished and they would help replace it. And if the victim didn't pay he would be evicted. Suspect Bickford has been identified by the victim as one of the two men who started the swindle. The victim appears to have been scammed in the amount of over \$200,000.00.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the public's help in locating any other victim's who may have fallen prey to these individuals. We believe they have other associates and may use asphalt work, roofing, or pressure washing as part of their activities. The three suspects are scheduled to appear in court today. Anyone with information should contact the Thurston County Fraud Task Force at 360-754-3601 or the Thurston County Sheriff's Office at 360-786-5500.



Bickford, Calvin A. age 48



Willis, Tony R., Age 35



Willis, Adam R., Age 35

The suspects were driving the white truck below without plates using a temporary license from Oregon.



Chief Criminal Deputy Jim Chamberlain