

Costly thefts under investigation in Atchison Co

(KAIR)--The latest case of a stolen catalytic converter joins a number of other thefts reported at an Atchison County location Saturday.

Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie, in a release, says his office was called to the 1000 block of 262nd Road, in rural Atchison County, around 4:15 Saturday afternoon. It was at that location that a 72-year-old Holton man reported that the catalytic converter had been cut off and stolen from his 2009 Chevrolet Silverado.

The cost of the loss is estimated at \$1,000.

A 17-year-old Circleville boy, at that same location, reported that thieves targeted his 2004 GMC Sierra, stealing \$270 in cash from inside the vehicle, as well as a backpack containing a Lenovo laptop computer owned by Washburn Institute of Technology. He also reported another backpack stolen, with the second one containing an iPad, three new brake pads, and a hand-held vehicle tuner.

The items stolen from the teen are estimated to have a value of around \$2,000.

According to Laurie, there is not yet a suspect in the case, and the investigation continues.

The theft of catalytic converters has been ongoing in recent months in the Atchison County area.

One day prior to the report of those thefts, the Atchison County Sheriff's Office had begun an investigation into another case following the reported theft of items from Vance Brothers Paving company work trucks.

According to Laurie, that report was received during the noon hour Friday, with the Kansas City, Missouri-based paving company reporting that the trucks had been parked in the 7000 block of 286th Road, in rural Atchison County, at the time of the thefts.

Taken were two communication headsets, a pair of gloves, two phone chargers, a STIHL brand leaf blower, approximately five gallons of diesel fuel, siphoned from a drum roller, a case of industrial type lubricant, and a case of starting fluid.

The total loss is estimated at \$800.

No suspects are identified, and Laurie says the investigation is continuing.

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