

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE : July 17, 2011
RELEASED BY : Sergeant Matt Keeling
CONTACT # : 538-7321

On July 10, 2011, at approximately 11:45 a.m., Butte County Sheriff's Deputy J. Beller was dispatched to investigate the theft of a large amount of copper wire from a local business in Chico.

Based on Deputy Beller's investigation, evidence found at the scene, and video surveillance, two suspects were identified. Jeffery Allen Avey, age 45, and Mitchell Wayne Plants, age 31, were both contacted at their homes in Chico and arrested. Jeffery Avey was booked into the Butte County Jail for grand theft and conspiracy to commit a crime. His bail was set at \$30,000. Mitchell Plants was also booked into the Butte County Jail for grand theft and conspiracy to commit a crime. Additionally, he was booked on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. His bail was set at \$35,000.