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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2010

Investigators Find Stolen Solar Panels and Batteries, Make Arrests

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. – During the early morning hours of September 7, 2010, the Investigations Division of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a credible lead regarding a current theft of solar panels belonging to an energy exploration company operating near Rulison. The GCSO investigators immediately acted on the information that led them to the Grand Junction area.

With the assistance of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, the investigators located the suspect's residence and made one arrest. They also recovered incriminating evidence at the scene.

As the investigation progressed, officials uncovered further evidence and pursued developing leads, which pointed to the Delta County area.

The GCSO Investigations Division spearheaded an extensive five-day investigation in partnership with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Two Rivers Drug Enforcement Team, Delta County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Bureau of Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Colorado State Patrol. They recovered a large quantity of stolen property totaling tens of thousands of dollars and arrested another individual.

Due to this case's complexity, its ongoing investigation and forthcoming arrests, we will not be releasing any further information at this time.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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