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People help cops catch suspected burglar; *LCSO seeks to return stolen items to victims*



Harold William Santry

Mug Shot By LCSO

**(Scroll Down to See the March 17
Story, and the Photos and Videos
Provided by Ryan Bell)**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © March 21, 2019
at 3:09 p.m.**

BRONSON -- People who live in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties helped members of the Levy County

Sheriff's Office find reasonable cause to arrest a man suspected of being a thief, according to information in a March 21 LCSO press release.



Lt. Scott Tummond, public information officer of the Levy County Sheriff's Office, wants victims to have their property back. He would also like people who bought stolen goods to bring them to the LCSO, so that the agency can add charges to a career criminal who Tummond believes is beyond rehabilitation.

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Harold William Santry, 54, of Chiefland is charged with 21 counts of possession of ammunition or a firearm by a convicted felon (\$30,000 bond per count), one count of grand theft (\$25,000 bond) and one count of unarmed burglary of an unoccupied structure (\$40,000 bond), according to records.

Ryan Bell bought the building and property that formerly was Deke's Steakhouse, as noted in the March 17 story below this story. Bell captured the likeness of this suspected burglar on security equipment he installed to help reduce loss of inventory to thieves.

Bell is the former owner of Bell's Restaurant of Chiefland, and he is the owner of Bell's Catering Service, as well as being the founder of the BubbaQue's franchise of barbecue restaurants.

Ryan Bell and his wife Crystal Marie Bell used social media and the daily news website *HardisonInk.com* to help people identify this suspect.

A shopper at a store in Chiefland on Tuesday (March 19) identified the man as being in the video and still pictures, and they called the Chiefland Police Department, which responded with the LCSO.

From the CPD, responding were Officer Harley Nobles, Sgt. Willie Barnes and Capt. Ray Tremblay, CPD Chief Scott Anderson said on Thursday afternoon in a telephone interview.

At the scene, CPD officers identified the suspect by comparing him with his likeness, which was captured on video. Also responding to the scene to identify the suspect, Lt. Tummond said, were Ryan and Crystal Bell.

Santry was arrested for the crime against the Bells, Tummond said.

Santry bailed out of jail and went to his home, Tummond said, only to discover his yard filled with several detectives in action.

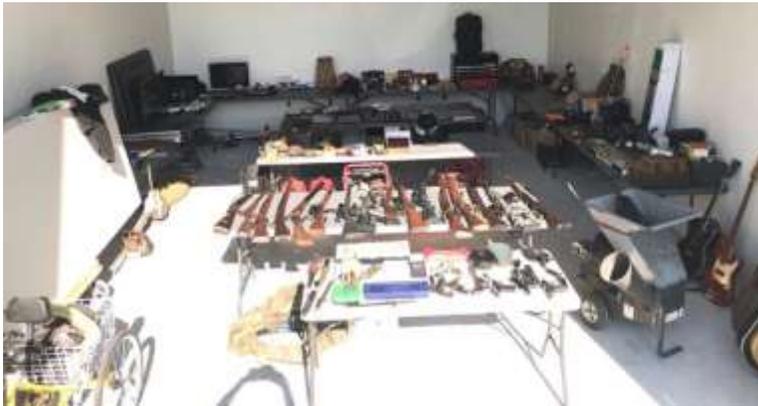


Thanks to Ryan Bell and others, Whispering Winds Charter School is going to get its lawnmower back.

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This pistol and holster will be able to be returned to the owner.



Here is a glimpse of some stolen items. Lt. Scott Tummond said the LCSO will have a book of items to show possible victims so that the people can identify what was taken from them by this suspected thief.

Detectives executed a search warrant on the suspect's home on Wednesday (March 20), LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond said.

Investigators discovered a wood chipper that had been reported stolen in a Levy County case in 2015. Detectives also discovered Santry moved into Levy County in June of 2015. Multiple firearms were recovered, Tummond said.

When the suspect went home and saw the detectives, is when Santry was arrested again, Tummond said, on the additional charges. Being a convicted felon, he is not allowed to possess ammunition or firearms.

Many seized items have been identified, Tummond said, but most have not been

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linked yet with reported property that was stolen.

Santry appeared to target the areas between Chiefland and Fanning Springs, Tummond said.

One of the recovered items, Tummond said during an interview Thursday, is a John Deere riding lawnmower that is the property of Whispering Winds Charter School of Chiefland.

In addition to the wood chipper and the lawnmower, a handgun and holster have been identified as belonging to persons other than Santry.

Some of the other stolen guns have been identified so far, Tummond said.

Lt. Tummond said the LCSO wants to return stolen items to their rightful owners.

People who lived in the Chiefland-Fanning Springs Area between June of 2015 and March of 2019, and who have had something stolen from their home are asked to contact the LCSO Criminal Investigations Division at 352-486-5111 to schedule a meeting.

"We will allow you to view all the property which has not been identified," Lt. Tummond said. "The process of cataloging the items will take time and we are asking for your patience.

"We are also asking our public if you had any interaction with Santry or even purchased something from him to contact us," Tummond said. "He is a very accomplished criminal and we want to ensure you that you are not in trouble. We just need to identify any stolen property he may have sold to the unsuspecting."

People who may now be in possession of stolen goods are not in trouble, Tummond said. The thing to do is to report it now, rather than at some point in the future if a law enforcement officer discovers the item is stolen.

Tummond wants victims to come forward to help the state of Florida keep this career criminal in prison, because the man is not able to be rehabilitated to live among law-abiding folks. People who come forward with stolen items are not going to be charged with possession of stolen property, Tummond said.

Santry would steal from structures, from under carports, from stores and even from recently-purchased restaurants that were undergoing renovation, Tummond said.

"I think that's what he got his high off of," Tummond said, "was actually committing the crime."

Tummond says that with more help from the public, the prosecutors will have better chances to keep this hardened criminal in prison, away from people he would victimize.

For the persons who are tempted to come look at the book of pictures to select items that were not really stolen from them, Tummond advises against that. Only actual victims are being sought by the LCSO.

"We're going to do our due diligence to assure that the property that we seized is returned to the rightful owner," Lt. Tummond said.

As for the video equipment that led to Santry's capture, Tummond said people might consider buying similar equipment for their homes and businesses to assist law enforcement agencies in capturing crooks.

Records show Santry is being held in the Levy County Jail in lieu of \$695,000 combined bonds, although as charges are added that bond can increase.

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Business owner posts video and still shots of suspected burglar; *Seeks help from the public*

<https://youtu.be/OJiU-JW6Cjs>

In this video, the suspect is seen strolling through the lit kitchen on Saturday night (March 16) at 8:44. Notice the man is wearing a black coat and gloves, indicating his intent to steal and not get caught as he escapes into the darkness of the night, while leaving no fingerprints. Notice how he is passing through the kitchen looking both ways to see if anyone is



detecting him.

Here are still shots to help people identify the suspected burglar.

Video and Photos Provided By Ryan Bell

**By Jeff M. Hardison © March 17, 2019
at 7:29 p.m.**

LEVY COUNTY – Ryan Bell bought the former restaurant known as Deke's

Steakhouse north of Chiefland on the east side of U.S. Highway 19.



The address is 6650 N.W. 140th St, Chiefland.

Bell, an accomplished restaurateur, found a man had entered the kitchen area, gone into the walk-in cooler and was seen by Bell leaving the premises with items in his hand on Saturday night (March 16) at 8:44.

The burglar was caught on video and is seen in the video and still shots above.

Anyone who can help identify this suspected sneak thief is asked to call the Levy County Sheriff's Office at 352-486-5111 to help solve this case.