

Sheriff

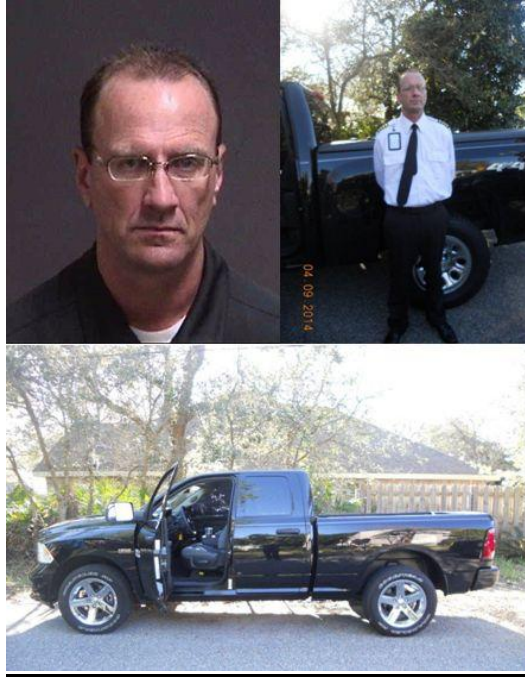


Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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April 10, 2014

OCSO ARRESTS CON MAN POSING AS PILOT



A recently released prison inmate who pretended to be an airline pilot as a means to scam his way into vacation rental homes and steal belongings is now charged by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office with grand theft, providing false information for pawned items, and home or private business invasion by false personation.

OCSO Investigators say 45-year old Bruce Allen Cowart was wearing his phony airline clothing and carrying bogus airline identification when they took him into custody April 9th while he was driving a stolen truck down Highway 98 in Mary Esther.

Although Cowart is in custody, the investigation remains active and additional charges are pending.

Investigators say between March 13th and his arrest, Cowart would pose as an airline pilot and convince owners of vacation rental units to allow him to stay on their properties prior to his first payment. Cowart would then remove televisions and other property to pawn for cash and disappear. He used the alias "Greg Johnson" on at least one occasion.

Okaloosa County victims include a unit owner at Destin West on Okaloosa Island, 1238 Miracle Strip Parkway, and the owner of a Destin rental home.

The OCSO has recovered some of the stolen property and is working to recover more.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SERVED

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO14ARR003659

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO14OFF003246	Other No OCSO14CAD053025	OBTS
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[SUSPECT]

<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hgt</u>	<u>Wgt</u>
COWART	BRUCE	ALLEN		W	M	4/19/1968	45	5'09"	145
<u>Eyes</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>MNI Number</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>ID. No.</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>OCA/Agency ID</u>		
BLU	BLN	OCSO05MNI000848			FL		187436	FWBPD	

Birth Location: City: LAKELAND County: State: FLORIDA Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship: UNITED STATES
Address

AT LARGE

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: EMERALD COAST PROPERTY, Job Title: PROP. MANAGEMENT, Entered: 1/11/2012
GULF BREEZE 32563

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

MOSLEY, MARK
JOHNSON, GREG
WHEELER, ANDREW
COWART, BRUCE ALLEN
COWART, BRUCE ALAN 4/19/1968

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 3/13/2014 10:09 to 3/25/2014 10:09 Lat / Long
No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
1328 MIRACLE STRIP PW FORT WALTON BEAC FL 32548 3 - 24 - -

[CHARGES]

539.001.8b

FRAUD

FALSE OWNER INFO PAWNED ITEMS 300 DOLS OR MORE

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Second	Not Applicable	260A		2699	

812.014.2c2

LARCENY

GRAND THEFT \$5000 OR MORE BUT LESS THAN \$10000

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Third	Not Applicable	230D		2399	

817.025.

FRAUD-IMPERSON

OBTAIN ACCESS STRUCTURE WO INJURY OR DEATH

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Second	Not Applicable	9000		2604	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

Between the dates of 03/13/14 and 03/25/14 Bruce Cowart committed the offense of Grand Theft, Home or Private Business Invasion by False Personation and Providing False Owner Information for Pawned Item while staying at Destin West, Located at 1238 Miracle Strip Pkwy, Unit 604 Osprey, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Investigation revealed that Cowart had used a fictitious name (Greg Johnson) to gain access to the unit. While using this fictitious identity he was able to get the owner to provide the access code to the door and to stay there at the

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rental for a designated period of time. A Search Warrant was executed at 1238 Miracle Strip Pkwy, Unit 604 Osprey, Fort Walton Beach, Florida after a housekeeper realized that electronics were missing from the unit. During this search warrant an Access card with the name Bruce Cowart was located in one of the trash cans. While staying at this residence, Cowart [redacted] removed electronic items and took items to local pawn shops where [redacted] used his name to pawn the items for money. [redacted] pawned a Sony Playstation 3 and 29 games that belonged to the victim. This item was confirmed by serial number and that the games had the name "Lee" written on them. Lee has since went to the pawn shop and picked up the Playstations and games confirming that they were in fact his items. In one video it was observed that Cowart [redacted] entered into Ocean City Pawn, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Both Cowart [redacted] were observed carrying a Samsung Blu-Ray Player, Model number BD-C5500C, and a 37 inch Vizio television. Items matching these devices were listed by the owner as being missing from the unit. These pawn transactions were conducted by [redacted] Cowart during the time frame that "Johnson" was to be staying in the unit. There was also another pawn transaction at in which [redacted] pawned a 32 inch LG Flat Panel Television. Again a device matching that television was also report missing from the unit by the owner.

Norris Mealer, was working at Ocean City Pawn on the day [redacted] pawned the Samsung Blu-Ray Player, Model number BD-C5500C, and a 37 inch Vizio television. Mealer positively identified both [redacted] and Cowart from Photo Arrays as the two males who were in the store and pawned the items. Mealer also stated that Cowart was strongly persuading [redacted] to take the money offered.

Contact with both Cowart and [redacted] been accomplished at this time. Cowart currently has an Active warrant for Violation of Probation for the original charge of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. [redacted]

Based on the aforementioned information, I have reason to believe and do believe that Bruce Cowart and [redacted] Violated F.S.S. 812.014(2c2), Grand theft, F.S.S. 539.001(8b), Providing False Owner Information for Pawned Item, F.S.S. 817.025, Home or Private Business Invasion by False Personation.

This incident occurred in Okaloosa County where I am a sworn law enforcement officer.

Signature (Arresting Officer) _____ DRISCOLL, JR, KENNETH B 208
Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 10 day of April A.D., 2014 by _____
who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature _____ Notary Public _____ LEO _____ CO

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____ Supervisor Name (Please Print) _____ Rank _____

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[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested	Residency	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist
4/9/2014 19:27	Unknown	None	N/A	No
		Arrested Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Drugs
		Yes	Within jurisdiction	Unknown
No.	Di	Street	A/L	City
1940		LEWIS TURNER BLVD		FORT WALTON BEAC FL
				ST Zip
				32547
Arresting Officer		Unit	(GEO)	Officer Type
208 DRISCOLL,JR, KENNETH B		OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT	- - -	
Reporting Officer		Unit		Original Offense Jurisdiction
228 DRISCOLL,JR, KENNETH B		OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT		OCSO
Forward to for approval				
OCSO/FSV/EAST/AC/C-SHIFT				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

- None
- ROR
- Cash
- Pro

Bond Set by Judge None ROR/Sign

Cash PTR

Any

Pro

PtIQ

Purge _____

SC _____

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: 5/20/2014 Time: 15:30

Instructions: OKALOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX EXTENSION

[COURT INFORMATION]

Court	Judge	Date
Sent		
Rcvd		
Court Case Number		

Assigned To:

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
<u>Released To</u>	<u>Printed</u>	<u>Printed By</u>
	No	

COPY

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REPORT NO: OCSO14ARR003659

Court DispositionType

Court Disposition Description

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

COURT DISPOSITION: _____

(right index)

- No Bill / Petition
 Issue Warrant
 Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney

Date

COPY