

# 4 arrested for spree of school burglaries

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(Front page)

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Four suspects were arrested in Cole County Wednesday afternoon in connection with nine recent school burglaries in three counties.

Two local men have been charged in Cole County; another person has been released from the Moniteau County Jail, pending the filing of charges. And a juvenile is in the custody of the Prenger Family Center in connection with possible possession of stolen property related to the incidents, Cole County Sheriff Gary Kempker said.

Authorities said they expect more arrests as the investigation continues.

Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett said charges were filed Thursday morning against two of the suspects.

John Motes, 17, and Michael

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## ☆ Arrests

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Lutz, 21, both of Jefferson City, were charged with four class C felony counts of second-degree burglary in connection with the Cole County burglaries.

Lutz also faces a charge of receiving stolen property in connection with the Cole County burglaries.

Both men are being held in the Cole County Jail, with bond set at \$20,000.

"When you're dealing with multiple counties, charges and defendants, it always takes a little bit more time to sort through the charging decisions," Tackett said.

Authorities in Moniteau and Callaway counties were not available for comment Thursday.

A tip led officers early Wednesday afternoon to a Jefferson City motel where all four suspects were apprehended and various property was recovered.

Authorities would not elaborate on the amount or type of property recovered.

Burglaries on March 6 were reported at three Cole County schools — R-5 in Eugene, R-1 in Russellville and R-2/Blair Oaks in Wardsville.

Cash and a variety of items were stolen, and elementary and high school buildings sustained damage to windows and doors.

A burglary was reported at the New Bloomfield High School on March 18.

Reports of four school burglaries in Moniteau County came Tuesday.

High Point R-3, Latham R-5, Moniteau County R-6 in Tipton and California R-1 High School all suffered damage and undetermined amounts of cash were stolen.

Officials said the extent of the damage at the nine schools varied.