



EFFINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

JEFFREY FUESTING, CHIEF OF POLICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE

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THEFT INVESTIGATION

The Effingham Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in a current on-going investigation. On April 1, 2018, Effingham Police Department received reports of an unknown white male using a fraudulent Facebook account to defraud victims in Effingham. In one reported case, the suspect met with a potential seller, but instead of purchasing the cell phone, the suspect attempted to grab the phone from the seller. In another case, the victim was sold a non-working phone; when the victim attempted to get a refund, the suspect took the cell phone back and kept the money from the sale.

The Bureau of Criminal Investigations has furthered the investigation and have identified the suspect as Maximilian N. Arroyo, 26 years of age from Mattoon, Illinois. Arroyo has been charged with Theft Under \$500.

Detectives believe there is a high likelihood more local victims have experienced similar suspicious activity but have not notified the police. Although the cases that are currently being investigated involve cell phones, it is very likely that other incidents have occurred which involve different types of properties.

Police Chief Jeffrey Fuesting would like to remind the public to remain vigilant when buying and selling items on-line. "With the popularity of on-line sales, it is important to practice safety when conducting business transactions. Meet in a public place during daylight hours to complete the sales. If possible, take another person with you when you meet. Do not give out personal information such as home address, social security numbers, or bank card numbers. Be aware of your surroundings, and report anything suspicious immediately."

If you or someone you know has been a victim in a private transaction of any on-line Facebook or on-line garage sale post, please call Effingham Police Department at 217-347-0774 to report the crime. Individuals are also encouraged to call CRIMESTOPPERS at 217-347-6583 for cash rewards up to \$1,000. Individuals calling CRIMESTOPPERS may choose to remain anonymous.