



## SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
GARY STEED  
Sheriff

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

AGENCY:

SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LOCATION:

WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

TELEPHONE:

(316) 660-5300

CONTACT:

CAPTAIN MICHAEL OLIVER

ON FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>, THE SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO A STRUCTURE FIRE AT 14621 EAST SPORT OF KINGS STREET. UPON THEIR ARRIVAL, THEY FOUND THE HOUSE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN FLAMES. FIRE CREWS REPORTED THAT THEY FOUND MULTIPLE BUT SEPARATE FIRES WITHIN THE STRUCTURE. THE FIRE SCENE INVESTIGATION INDICATED THE FIRE APPEARED TO BE INTENTIONALLY SET. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES PUT THE FIRE LOSS AT \$300,000.

SHERIFF DETECTIVES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATORS, IDENTIFIED THREE SUSPECTS IN THE CASE. AS A RESULT OF THE COMBINED INVESTIGATION, DAVID R. RATHBONE, A 47-YEAR-OLD WHITE MALE, AND ROBERT D. PENNOCK, A 43-YEAR-OLD WHITE MALE, WERE BOOKED INTO THE DETENTION FACILITY ON ARSON AND MAKING A FALSE WRITING CHARGES. JASON W. WELCH, A 20-YEAR-OLD WHITE MALE, WAS BOOKED INTO THE DETENTION FACILITY ON ARSON CHARGES.

AT THIS POINT, A CASE IS BEING PREPARED FOR CHARGING CONSIDERATION WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

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