



**Press Release**  
**4-9-15**

On Wednesday April 8, 2015, Stephen Sumner, 35, of Blue Ridge was sentenced to 15 years in prison on for Theft of Property in an amount of \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000. Sumner was also sentenced to serve a concurrent 10 year sentence for two counts of Theft of Property in an amount of \$1500 or more but less than \$20,000. The sentences were a result of a plea agreement between the Grayson County District Attorney's Office and Sumner. Sumner pled guilty to the charges in the 397<sup>th</sup> District Court and was sentenced by Judge Brian Gary.

The charges were the result of investigations conducted by both the Denison and Whitesboro Police Departments after a string of wheel and tire thefts from local car dealerships. The investigations revealed that Sumner would advertise the sale of tires and rims on Craigslist. Once he was contacted by buyers Sumner would determine the specific type of tires and/or rims the buyer wanted. Sumner would then go to local car dealers and steal the property.

Prior to his plea, Sumner had previously pled guilty to various theft and burglary charges related to similar thefts in other counties including Collin, Dallas, Rockwall, Titus, Upshur and Fannin. The maximum sentence he received in any of those cases was five years in prison.

"This was an ongoing problem for some of our car dealerships and this guy was stealing all over north Texas," said Grayson County District Attorney Joe Brown. "This kind of thing affects the prices we pay, insurance rates, and all sorts of things."

Sumner was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Donnie Carter. Sherman attorney Ryan Krek represented Sumner.