**PRESS RELEASE - MONITEAU COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

On 02/20/2019 Deputies with the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office were dispatched to Cedar Ridge Road in McGirk, Missouri on a reported theft of a S160 Bobcat brand skid steer loader. The owners of the Bobcat stated that sometime during the night someone had entered the property and took the Bobcat from a building on the property. Upon processing the scene deputies determined that the suspects had drove to the rear of the building and loaded the Bobcat onto a trailer and left the area driving down Rocky Road. Deputies then tracked the suspect vehicle down several roads to a shed located in Kliever, Mo. deptuties then executed a search warrant on the property but did not locate the stolen Bobcat but did locate and seize electronic video evidence from the location. Deputies then determined that the building was owned by a Justin T. Moore and began looking in the area to locate him. On the afternoon of 02/20/2019 Moniteau County Deputies were notified that the Missouri State Highway Patrol had located Justin Moore in Cole County Missouri. Moore led the trooper on a vehicle pursuit which ended with a foot chase. Moore was then taken into custody in Cole County Missouri. Moore was currently out on bond in Moniteau County on a previous drug charge and as per his bond conditions was asked to submit to a urinalysis. Moore then refused this test and on 02/22/2019 was transported from the Cole County Jail to the Moniteau County Jail. Deputies then continued to investigate the theft of the Bobcat and gathered further evidence to include foot print and tire track analysis evidence along with further video evidence. On 03/06/2019 while still in custody a warrant was issued for Justin Moore for the theft of the bobcat and burglary. During the course of the investigation deputies have identified further suspects in this case and further arrests are expected. The Moniteau Count Sheriff’s Office is asking the public that if they have any further information to contact their office at 573-796-2525 or leave an anonymous tip on their website at [www.moniteaucountysheriffsoffice.com](http://www.moniteaucountysheriffsoffice.com).

**Justin T. Moore – Age 38 – Kliever, Mo – Burglary 2nd degree – Stealing a motor vehicle – Bond $25,000.00**

**NOTE FROM THE SHERIFF:** Due to our proactive enforcement efforts thefts of this nature are rare in this county. We are continuing the investigation and will use ever means necessary to bring the other individuals involved to justice. The Bobcat that was stolen belongs to a small business that has a hard time operating without this piece of equipment. We are asking the public to be on the lookout for this Bobcat which is a model S160 white and orange in color. The VIN number has been entered into the system as stolen. If you were involved in this crime I strongly urge you to come forward and cooperate before we find you.

Tony Wheatley



Sheriff – Moniteau County