

Montgomery County Sheriff Neal Thomas

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office received a call from a citizen reporting a tour bus was stuck on the road near Shady Lake. The call was transferred to Polk County. Additional information was developed and it was determined the bus was actually stuck on Road 106 in Montgomery County. Deputies responded to the scene. The U.S. Forest Service was advised and also responded.

Montgomery County Dispatch Center identified and contacted the owner of the bus company. The owner stated the bus was stuck and he had contacted a wrecker company in Pike County to get the bus out. However, due to the weather conditions, the wrecker company was not able to get the bus out but moved it to a safe location out of the roadway. The owner further stated the wrecker company would come back and remove the bus when it becomes safe to do so.

Deputies determined that the bus was occupied by a number of male subjects at the time it had gotten stuck but no one was with the bus when they arrived.

A Troop Commander with the Arkansas State Police contacted the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office stating that he had received multiple calls on the bus. Information was provided to the Troop Commander and he also made contact with the owner of the bus company. The owner advised him that everyone on the bus had been picked up and taken back to Dallas where they were from and the bus would be taken care of at a later date.

Due to community concerns and rumors of possible criminal activity, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has initiated an investigation into the incident.