Sunset Officer Who Catches Thieves Becomes A Victim Of One

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Two weeks ago, a Sunset Beach Police sergeant was praised for her quick apprehension of a car thief. Last week she became the victim of a larceny herself when her car was broken into near Shallotte, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's office

Sgt. Lisa Massey was spending the night at her sister's home on Madison Street, off N.C. 130 Friday night, and left her car parked on the lawn near the front steps, according to Detective Tom Hunter's report.

When she went outside at about 8 a.m. the next morning, she found the driver's side door ajar and numerous items missing. The thief stole a number of cassette tapes and cleaned out the contents of a container in the console where Massey ordinarily tossed spare change.

Unfortunately, that night she had also left a wedding ring and an engagement ring in the container, Hunter said. Total value of the stolen property was estimated at about

"It just goes to show that nobody is safe," Hunter said. "Even law enforcement officers can become victims when criminals keep getting let back out onto the street.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's office:

■A "rollback" automobile transport truck was stolen from Fullwood's Auto Service and Towing on U.S. 17 south of Shallotte Thursday night. The owner told Deputy R.W. Long II that he arrived at the business at about 7:45 a.m. Friday to find that someone had cut through a fence and drove off with his 1984 Ford truck. Long estimated the truck's value at \$12,000 and the damage at \$400.

The owner of a 1988 Mazda 626 reported the car stolen from a yard on Hankins Way, off Makatoka Road last weekend. She told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that she had left the car parked with the keys inside at about 10:30 Saturday night and found it missing the next day at 7:45 a.m. Two days later the car was found wrecked in a ditch on Makatoka Road. It was valued at \$7,000.

Someone stole \$800 worth of tools and set two fires inside a hunting club on Makatoka Road Saturday night. McDonald was told that someone pulled a screen out of a front window to get inside the building and that five dollars was found missing from a bucket. The thief or thieves then set fire to a pile of aprons in the kitchen and started a second fire on a table in another room. A gas tank was found near one of the fires and "footprints were evident outside the window," the deputy reported. A camping trailer also was broken into, but nothing was found missing. Damage was estimated at \$280.

■More than \$3,000 worth of tools were stolen from a storage building beside a home on Boonesneck Road, Supply Friday night. Deputy Cathy Hamilton reported that the owner told her he returned home at about 10:20 p.m.and found that a lock had been broken off the building. Missing were three chain saws, a pressure washer, a grinder and a welding

A 1980 Chevrolet pickup truck was reported stolen from a home on Pine Burr Circle in Calabash. The owner told Long that he left the car outside his home with the keys inside at about 10 p.m. and discovered it missing the next day at 11:30 a.m. It was later recovered in South

CRIME REPORT

Carolina, where it had been involved in an accident. The truck was valued at about \$2,000

■Someone stole a video camcorder, tools and a wallet valued at a total of more than \$1,800 from a pickup truck parked on Cherrytree Road in Winnabow Thursday night. The woman who owns the truck told Deputy Mark Snowden that the items were removed from a locked tool box in the bed of the pickup. No pry marks were found, the report said.

that occurred in the Coastal Retreat subdivision off Stanbury Road Thursday night. She questioned a woman there who said the thief or thieves had broken in through the front door and apparently fixed themselves a meal. (Dirty dishes were found in the sink.) Missing were an antique movie camera, a video camera, a woman's ring and a new pair of child's "Barney" shoes valued at a total of \$1,375.

A Pennsylvania man reported the theft of his golf bag and clubs from outside the Carolina Shores pro shop Saturday afternoon. He told Deputy Randy Robinson that he left the clubs unattended at about 2 p.m. and discovered them missing about 15 minutes later. Total value of the bag, 17 golf clubs and 12 golf balls was

■Nearly \$1,200 worth of jewelry and other items were stolen from a home on U.S. 17 near Supply Friday night. The owner told Hamilton that she came home at about 11 o'clock to find that someone had thrown a brick through the back door and went inside to find another brick "lodged in the closet door in the kitchen." Missing were eight rings, three pairs of earrings, a television and a videocassette recorder. Hamilton estimated the damage at about

lace valued at about \$1,100 were stolen from a home on Ash-Little River Road Thursday afternoon. The victim told Deputy Keithan Horne that his girlfriend left the home secure at about 2:45 and returned at 6 o'clock to find that the kitchen window had been pried open. Pry marks were discovered there and around the front door. The man said he found a screwdriver in the yard that did not belong to him.

A thief removed a screen from a dining room window at a mobile home on Cumbee Road, Supply, Saturday night. The victim told Deputy Jimmy Davis that her videocassette recorder was missing. Its value was estimated at \$400.

gauge shotgun and a guitar were reported stolen from a mobile home on Homes Drive, Supply, recently. The owner told Hamilton that he returned to the trailer at about 2:15 Wednesday to find that the back door of the home had been pried

and reel valued at a total of \$350. Someone broke into a mobile

home and storage shed on Elm Street in the Coastal Retreat subdivision last week and stole a videocassette recorder valued at about \$250. The son of the homeowner told Davis that he visited the home at about 4 p.m. Thursday and found that padlocks on both the trailer and the shed had been cut with an unknown tool. Nothing was found missing from the shed, but it appeared that the thief had gone through all the cabinets and closets in the home.

There was about \$130 damage caused in a break-in that occurred sometime in the past two weeks at a mobile home on Vinton Street in Fisherman's Village, Supply. The Fayetteville man who owns the trailer told Hamilton that he returned Sunday afternoon to find that his bedroom window had been opened

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with a hammer. Missing was a portable air compressor, a battery charger, a spotlight, a drop cord and a Bowie knife valued at a total of \$230.

■A Shallotte woman who was attending a wedding at Sharon Methodist Church Saturday reported that hers was one of several pocketbooks stolen during the festivities. She told McDonald that she and several other women had left their handbags in a crib in the nursery. When she later went in to check on her son, she saw a man she did not recognize sitting next to the crib. One of the pocketbooks was found the next morning in a Shallotte park.

■Nothing was reported missing in a break-in that occurred at a mobile home on Lucian I. Fulford Road, Supply, Friday. Gray estimated the damage to the trailer's door at \$300.

EA 19-inch color television valued at \$212 was stolen from the home of a man who lives at the H & S mo-

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bile home park on Long Beach Road, Southport, last week. According to Gray's report, the owner said he returned to the trailer at about 11 p.m. on the night of Sept. 12 and

discovered the TV missing. Gray also investigated the theft of a sign from the L&L Montessori Pre -School on the Dosher cutoff near N.C. 211 last week. A woman at the school said the sign was taken sometime between Monday and Friday of last week. The deputy estimated its value at about \$150.

■The lower unit from an inboard motor was stolen from a boat parked at a sandblasting shop off Fletcher Drive in Leland recently. The owner told Deputy Brian Sanders that the boat had been parked there since August. The stolen unit was valued

■A large concrete block was thrown through the window of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce building on Long Beach Road over the weekend. Davis estimated the damage at about \$100.

Someone caused an estimated \$75 damage to two signs and stole two welcome mats from the N.C. Welcome Center near Shallotte recently. Robinson estimated the value of the two mats at \$60.

A North Carolina license plate bearing the number EZL-8886 was reported stolen from a 1976 pickup truck parked off Leland School Road sometime in the past two weeks. Sgt. Darryl Marlow investigated the theft, which was discovered at about 9:30 Thursday night.





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■McDonald investigated a break-in

estimated at \$1,200.

A color television and a gold neck-

About 600 baseball cards, a 12-

■Sgt. Charles Browning investigated a break-in that occurred sometime in the past two weeks at a home on River Street, Supply. The owner, a China Grove man, said that someone apparently came in through the back window of his house and stole a videocassette recorder and a rod

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