

Boaters Chase Suspects Down Sturgeon Creek

BY TERRY POPE

Two Leland men helped law officers track down a couple of suspects Friday evening, resulting in a high-speed boat chase down Sturgeon Creek and the Cape Fear River.

Two men have been charged with the larceny of a boat motor in the case, said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Ken Messer.

Dillon Gancy, of Village Road, told Deputy Steve Mason that he was collecting eggs when, at around 7 p.m., he noticed two men allegedly removing a motor from a boat tied at his private dock on Sturgeon Creek.

After the suspects fled in another boat, Gancy and a neighbor searched the creek for the suspects and spotted them at Davis Creek, said Mason.

"The two suspects took off past them," said Mason, "going as close as five or six feet from their boat."

The men allegedly saw the missing boat motor inside the suspect's boat at that time and gave chase, said Mason.

They were not able to keep up with the suspects' boat, losing sight of it until they arrived in Wilmington and saw it docked at a railroad museum landing on the Cape Fear River.

The Wilmington Police Department assisted in the case.

Messer said the suspects allegedly had a vehicle parked at the Davis Creek landing where the residents had followed them.

Wayne Dewey Hinson, of Route 4, Leland, and Lynn Hamilton, of Highland Hills subdivision in Leland, were both charged with misdemeanor larceny, said Messer.

They were later released from the Brunswick County Jail under \$300 bond each.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

Someone kicked the glass from a door at Melinda's T-Shirt Shop in Calabash late Friday. The suspect took a cash register with some change inside, five key chains valued at \$600 each and three pairs of earrings valued at \$398 each, reported Deputy George Stanley. Damage was \$500.

An estimated \$731 in fishing supplies was taken from a private pier off Indigo Circle at Sea Trail, Stanley reported. The suspect apparently walked along the shoreline of the waterway and climbed onto the pier, taking a cast net and bucket, tackle box and other supplies.

Two homes on Turnpike Road near Supply were broken into Sunday, reported Deputies Charles Crocker and Randy Robinson. Crocker said someone took a \$158 video recorder after prying open a mobile home window. In another break-in, someone took \$125 in cash and \$1,300 in jewelry from a home while the residents were at church, said Robinson.

A 260-pound life-size statue was stolen from the front yard of a Sunset Harbor home last Thursday. The statue is of a 5-foot-5-inch Egyptian woman holding a vase on her shoulder and is valued at \$250, reported Deputy Patti Hewett.

A Wilmington man has taken a warrant out against his girlfriend for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, reported Sgt. Carl Pearson. The man told deputies that when he asked his girlfriend where his 1982 Volkswagen was, she advised him that someone had stolen it while she was in Navassa on July 18.

Nine pair of hair clippers, some curling irons and hair kits were taken from a shop south of Bolivia Saturday. Items taken were valued at \$550, Robinson reported.

A stereo and tool box valued at \$300 were taken from a Shell Point Road home Saturday, Crocker reported.

An estimated \$1,980 in ski and fishing equipment was taken from a River Hills subdivision home near Holden Beach Friday, reported Ms. Hewett.

Fishing equipment valued at \$1,100 was stolen from a Horizon Drive home off of N.C. 130 near Shallotte late Saturday, reported Deputy Charles Wilson.

Vandals broke the glass from two doors at an Oxpen Road home last Monday, July 22, reported Deputy William Hewett. Damage was estimated at \$700.

CRIME REPORT

Someone took a set of golf clubs, briefcase and video camera from a car parked at the Moose Lodge on Long Beach Road. Some of the items were recovered from woods at the scene, reported Deputy Larry Jones.

A fight in the McDonalds parking lot on Long Beach Road, Southport, last Thursday afternoon sent one man to the hospital, reported Ms. Hewett. The victim was repeatedly kicked and hit around 3 p.m. and possibly suffered a broken jaw. He was taken to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport, then trans-

ferred to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington. About \$5,000 in goods was taken from a Lewis Loop Road home at Winnabow last Friday, reported Sgt. Gene Browning. The suspect broke through a screened window and ransacked the home. Two air conditioners valued at

\$150 were stolen from a Stanley Road home near Supply Saturday, reported Ms. Hewett. A pay telephone in the parking lot of Country Corner on Old Fayetteville Road in Leland was destroyed by vandals early Monday morning, reported Deputy Richard DuVall. Someone broke open the phone

owned by Southern Bell and removed the change. The Maco Light Restaurant on U.S. 74-76 was broken into over the weekend, reported Browning. The front door glass had been kicked out, causing \$500 in damage. The thief left with a jar of Big Mama red hot sausages, valued at \$15.

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