

Sheriff



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VACATIONING DEPUTY HELPS CATCH CAR BURGLARS IN ACTION



A vacationing deputy from Tennessee helped nab two car burglars after spotting them breaking into cars in the parking lot of an Okaloosa Island condominium.

On June 12th around 3:15 A.M., Deputy Charles Smith with the Montgomery County Tennessee Sheriff's Office heard a car alarm. When he went to investigate, he saw two people burglarizing a vehicle in the parking lot of Waters Edge, 590 South Santa Rosa Boulevard.

Deputy Smith caught one of the suspects and was able to provide a description of the second, who ran from the scene. Okaloosa Sheriff's Deputy Branden Findley found the second suspect on the condominium's third floor and captured him after a brief foot chase.

The suspects were identified as 19-year old Tyler Lee Serio of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and 15-year old Andrew George Rombach of Mandeville, Louisiana. The two cousins were staying at the Water's Edge Condominium with family on vacation from Louisiana. Serio confessed to the numerous burglaries he and Rombach committed and assisted with the recovery of an estimated five hundred dollars worth of stolen items, which were recovered from Serio's and Rombach's room.

According to Serio, he and Rombach were walking on the beach, and entered the parking lots of each condominium they encountered along the south side of Santa Rose Boulevard. Once in the parking lots, Serio and Rombach opened every unlocked vehicle they located, and stole whatever was available. While numerous vehicles were entered, Serio and Rombach only stole items from four of the vehicles. Serio showed Deputies all of the vehicles he could remember entering, and three of the vehicles were identified as having property stolen from them.

Two of the three victims wished to press charges, and one stolen item has yet to be associated with a vehicle. Serio is charged with Burglary, Grand Theft, Loitering and Prowling, and Possession of Alcohol under the Age of Twenty-One. Rombach is charged with Burglary, Grand Theft, and Loitering and Prowling.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to thank Deputy Smith for his quick actions and valuable assistance. We also want to remind citizens and visitors to please lock their vehicles. In addition to locking the vehicle, please avoid leaving valuables in the vehicle. If valuables must be left in a vehicle, please place them out of sight.

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