

Two Scottsburg men arrested in wake of county burglaries

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Charges have been filed against two Scottsburg men which local law enforcement agencies are sure were involved in two separate burglaries occurring in Scott County.

In the case against Michael J. Juntunen, 26, he was reportedly nearly caught in the act of burglarizing the Scottsburg home of a senior citizen on October 4, 2009.

The probable cause affidavit prepared by investigating officer Lt./Detective Mike Nichols of the Scottsburg Police Department stated that a relative of the elderly resident pulled up in the driveway and said he saw a male subject jump from the home's rear step. The relative chased the man until losing him. The subject's description was of a skinny white male in his early 20s with brown hair and wearing a red and blue cap, khaki shorts and a dark shirt.

A woman was also seen crouching in bushes in a neighbor's yard as if hiding. The woman was using a cell phone, and police surmised that she had been the burglar's "look-out" to warn him if anyone came home.

Marks were found where the house door had been pried open, and several pieces of jewelry were reported missing.

Later, the relative told officers that he spotted a person he believed to be the man he chased on the Insight Community Channel's "Most Wanted" feature. That suspect was identified as Juntunen by the relative.

The second burglary officers have marked solved resulted in the arrest of Herbert Jent III, 25, New Frankfort Road, Scottsburg.

On January 5, Deputy Joe Johnson investigated a burglary at a home on East Horner Road, Lexington. A relative of the owner discovered a back door had been kicked in. Several pieces of jewelry and several firearms, including a black Taurus 9mm handgun, were reported missing.

On January 25, Detective Rick Barrett of the Sheriff's Department interviewed Jent, who had formerly lived at the house. Jent allegedly admitted forcing his way in and taking jewelry, a small safe with the handgun inside and some documents. He allegedly said he had pawned several of the items at different shops in Clarksville and had thrown the handgun into a lake.

Both men were charged with Class B felony burglary. Initial court hearings were held for each in Scott Circuit Court, with not guilty pleas entered on their behalf.

Bonds on each were set at \$50,000, which can be posted at ten percent, and preliminary jury trial dates were set on June 7.

Both men are being represented by public defenders.