

# Ruston man arrested in burglary of local church

By Chris Butler  
chris@rustonleader.com

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Ruston Police officers arrested a 45-year-old Ruston man last week and charged him with simple burglary of a religious building.

Officers arrested Reginald Dean after they said he stole about \$1,500 worth of items from the Cornerstone Baptist Church on U.S. 167 North, said Lt. Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

Dean pitched a tent north of church grounds, broke into the church, stole food and electronics and later placed them in his tent, Hawkins said.

Church officials realized May 18 that someone had broken a church window and burglarized their building. They immediately called police.

"One church official told Officer John Winzer that he saw a tent in the woods nearby that seemed totally out of place. Winzer found the tent, located

all of the missing items and later saw a man walking away from the area, who was later identified as Dean," Hawkins said.

Winzer stopped Dean and arrested him, Hawkins said.

"Officer Winzer was very observant in spotting the suspect as he tried to leave the area and acted quickly," Hawkins said.

Police took Dean to the Lincoln Parish Detention Center, where he was still being held on \$10,000 bond as of Friday.