

Five booked in connection with auto burglaries

By Chris Butler
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Police report a resident's tip helped investigation

Ruston Police officers arrested five Ouachita Parish men on burglary charges early Tuesday morning after they allegedly stole numerous electronic items out of several vehicles at an apartment complex.

The burglaries happened at an apartment complex on Penny Lane.

The men never had to break any of the windows in order to get into the vehicles, said Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the

Ruston Police Department. Most of the vehicles were unlocked.

Someone in the neighborhood saw the men breaking into the vehicles around 1 a.m. and called police, he said.

"A resident of the apartment complex saw a vehicle drive into the parking lot and then drop several men off. He later saw those same men going through several people's cars in the parking lot. That man called police

and provided us with a description of the suspects and the vehicle they were riding in when they left," Hawkins said.

RPD Lt. Tony Blake responded to the call and saw the vehicle leaving the scene before he pulled it over and arrested the men inside.

Blake found cell phones, laptops and other miscellaneous items that the men stole from several different vehicles,

Hawkins said.

Louisiana Tech University Police officers also responded to the call and helped Ruston Police officers find the men, he said.

"This is another case of an observant citizen calling us, and this is the kind of help that we need. We may not have caught these guys without this guy's assistance," Hawkins said.

The men entered most of

the vehicles by pulling on the unlocked door handle, meaning they didn't have to damage any of the vehicles in order to get in. One vehicle, however, had some minor damage, Hawkins said.

Arrested were:

- Neunyta Montrell Hewitt, 18, 320 Stewart St., West Monroe; charged with three counts of simple burglary

- Robert Terrell Eleam, 19, 112 Texas Ave., No. 12, Monroe;

charged with three counts of simple burglary

- Shadrick DeAndre Ross, 18, 307 Landerman, West Monroe; charged with three counts of simple burglary

- John Henry Brown III, 17, 207 Mitchell Lane, West Monroe; charged with three counts of simple burglary

- Dallas O'Neal Williams, 22, 124 Medal Lake, No. 14, Monroe; charged with simple burglary; no driver's license on person; expired motor vehicle inspection; failure to secure registration and driving with no headlights.