

Robbery suspect caught lying down

By Nick Todaro

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Ruston police arrested a robbery suspect just feet from the scene of the crime on Monday.

The Ruston Police Department's Cpl. Jay Alexander found Alphonso Dobbins lying in the woods near a burgled home on Robert Street on Ruston's southwest side near midnight. Alexander had found a camera flash in the grass near the house, and that discovery made him expand his search around the home, which led to his discovery of Dobbins.

Officers were at the scene initially because of a separate call. A woman who lived on Robert Street called in a complaint of someone ringing her doorbell twice and running away when she answered.

RPD Public Information Officer Lt. Curtis Hawkins said there was a strong likelihood it was Dobbins checking to see if anybody was home.

"I can't say for sure what he was doing," Hawkins said. "And I can't say positively that it was him, either. I can just say we were investigating some suspicious activity with this. We're pretty sure, it's just too coincidental."

While officers were patrolling in the area of the woman's home, another resident flagged them down, explaining that a window at his home had been shattered and he was missing several things from his home.

When officers found Dobbins and searched him, they found electronic equipment missing from the house.

Dobbins was also carrying drug paraphernalia at the time of his arrest, according to police.

He also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest for failure to appear in court on a charge of disturbing the peace that was from May 21.

Dobbins was booked for that outstanding charge, as well as theft of property less than \$300, simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling, simple criminal damage to property for the shattered window and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond has not been set.