

Man arrested for stealing van

By Chris Butler

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Ruston police arrested a Virginia man last week and charged him with felony possession of stolen property.

Officers arrested Franklin Deon Bailey, 42, of Madison Heights, Va., on the night of Aug. 21 after they received a report of suspicious behavior at the Wal-Mart parking lot, said Lt. Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

"An officer was patrolling the Wal-Mart parking lot when he was flagged down by a worker from the Murphy Gas Station. That worker reported seeing a man inside a white van that had been parked there for almost a week. It appeared the white male was watching the

store and had been engaging in some type of suspicious behavior. Our officers checked out the van and located a man that we identified as Bailey," Hawkins said.

"He (Bailey) told officers that he was hitchhiking and was picked up on the interstate somewhere between Bossier and Ruston by someone driving that van and that that person had left him stranded at Wal-Mart," Hawkins said. "Our officers contacted the Bossier City Police Department and found out the van was actually stolen."

Officers arrested Bailey and charged him with possession of stolen things over \$500. Officers secured the van until the owner arrived from Bossier City to claim it, Hawkins said.