

Man, teen charged in vehicle burglaries

By Emily Nelson

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With the help of an observant resident, Ruston Police arrested two people for vehicle burglary early Saturday morning.

A little after 3 a.m., police responded to a call about a vehicle burglary in progress at 115 Debra Lane. The caller said he witnessed two black males burglarizing vehicles outside his residence, then saw them head north on U.S. 167, according to Ruston Police Chief Steve Rogers.

Police stopped the suspects at the E-Z Mart on U.S. 167 South and arrested Carnell Caldwell, 41, of Ruston, and a 13-year-old male juvenile.

Rogers said police discovered that the car Caldwell was driving belonged to the caller who had alerted police to the burglary. They also found items in the vehicle and in Caldwell's possession that appeared to have been taken from other vehicles that were burglarized that night.

Caldwell attempted to escape police on foot after they stopped him, Rogers said, but officers were able to chase him down.

Caldwell was charged with four counts of simple burglary — theft from a motor vehicle; four counts of simple criminal damage to property (felony); simple escape; resisting an officer by flight; contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile; unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and probation violation.

The juvenile was charged with simple burglary — theft from a motor vehicle; unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and simple criminal damage to property.

Rogers said Caldwell also could face additional charges.

"This is a really good stop for these patrol officers," Rogers said.

"We've had a lot of vehicle burglaries lately. We were fortunate we had a citizen call in and we happened to be close enough to apprehend these subjects. It was a very good arrest."