

News Release

Palatka Police Department

Suspects arrested for burglary at local pawn shop and burglary of another business

As reported on August 5th, a local pawn shop, Foxy Pawn, located at 3705 block of Crill Avenue was burglarized twice, once on July 31st during the early morning hours and once on August 3rd, during the early morning hours. Fourteen (14) guns were stolen from the shop during the burglaries.

On August 5th during the early morning hours, approximately 3:30 AM another burglary occurred at a business located in at 837 South State Road 19, John's Games. That location was approximately 7 blocks from pawn shop. The suspects broke a front window, entered the business and stole numerous electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets.

Due to the locations and the times of occurrence, it was suspected that the burglaries might be related. Extra patrols were ordered for the surrounding area during the early morning hours in hopes of locating possible suspects. On August 6th at approximately 3 AM, Officer Todd Bryant of the Palatka Police Department observed several teenagers walking near Bates Road and St. Johns Avenue. When he turned around in his patrol vehicle to check on the subjects, they took flight and attempted to hide. Officer Bryant, with the assistance of other officers, located the subjects a short distance away.

Upon making contact, officers observed what they believed to be evidence indicating that the subjects might have been involved in the burglary at John's Games. The subjects were detained and questioned. The subsequent investigation uncovered evidence to indicate that the two subjects were involved in the burglary at John's Games and at least one of the burglaries at the pawn shop, the one that occurred on July 31st.

The subjects were identified as Jataveis McHellen, age 16 and Jerome Oxendine, age 15, both of Palatka. They were arrested and detained by Juvenile Justice Authorities on numerous charges. They were both charged with 2 counts of Burglary While Armed, 2 counts of Grand Theft and 2 counts of Criminal Mischief.

At this time, the investigation is continuing. Investigators are attempting to locate the stolen firearms and the stolen property from John's Games. Updates will be made available if new information is developed.