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Cars at mobile home park burglarized

MANATEE — A burglar or burglars entered 11 vehicles in Trailer Estates sometime Tuesday night or Wednesday morning and stole electronic items and money, the sheriff's office reported Wednesday.

The burglaries occurred sometime between 8 p.m. Tuesday and 2 p.m. Wednesday, and all the vehicles were "unsecured," according to a press release from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

The vehicles were at mobile homes on five streets: Kansas, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington.

A GPS unit was stolen in at least one vehicle, and loose change was taken, the report said.

Firefighter arrested

MYAKKA — A Myakka City firefighter has been arrested on charges of violating a domestic violence injunction and domestic battery, according to a Manatee County Sheriff's Office report.

Arthur Kersey, 41, was arrested Tuesday and has since been released from the Manatee County jail on his own recognizance.

A sheriff's report said Kersey entered the home of his ex-wife, who has an active domestic violence injunction against him. Kersey's 16-year-old son later told deputies his father held him on the ground and punched him in the face, according to the sheriff's report.

Deputies saw no signs of redness, bruising or swelling on the boy, the sheriff's report said.

Mother, daughter threatened

MANATEE — A 29-year-old man was arrested Tuesday on charges of aggravated assault after he allegedly held his pregnant girlfriend and her mother at gunpoint.

George A. Thomas remained in jail on a \$200,120 bond Wednesday night after he reportedly threatened to kill both women and held a gun to both of their heads in June 2008.

Thomas was arguing for his girlfriend to come home from her mother's home. At gunpoint, he reportedly dragged her back to the car, slapped her face and pulled a clump of her hair out. He ordered her to drive back home.

The woman got in her car and drove around the block and back to her mother's home.

He fired a shot in the air as she drove away.

When she came back to her mother's home, authorities were contacted.

Thomas was charged with three counts of aggravated assault and one count of discharging a firearm in public.

Police cruiser in crash

BRADENTON — A Bradenton Police officer, who was driving his police-issued car, and another driver were both taken to local hospitals after they were involved in a crash Wednesday afternoon.

The crash took place at about 3 p.m. near the 2100 block of 14th Street West.

A report was not completed Wednesday evening, according to police. The investigation is being handled by Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Both drivers appear to be stable, police said.

— Robert Napper, Gary Taylor and Beth Burger

Sexual battery charged

MANATEE — A Bradenton man has been arrested on a charge of sexual battery after his girlfriend's daughter reported he raped her several times since 2005, according to a Manatee County Sheriff's Office report.

Detectives arrested Lonnie Junior Edwards, 31, on Tuesday,

The girl told detectives Edwards first raped her in 2005 when she was 11 and continued to rape her several times, most recently in February, the sheriff's report said.

Edwards is being held in the Manatee County jail without bond.

50 pounds of pot seized

MANATEE — A traffic stop led to the arrest of a man on marijuana trafficking charges and the seizure of 50 pounds of the drug, according to a Manatee County Sheriff's Office report.

Deputies arrested Ricardo Davila-Alvarez, 44, on Tuesday, on trafficking charges after they found the marijuana in his van after a 9 a.m. traffic stop in the 900 block of First Street West, the sheriff's report said.

Davila-Alvarez was driving on First Street when he swerved into another lane, nearly colliding with a sheriff's patrol car. The deputy pulled him over and smelled marijuana coming from the van.

A search of the van revealed 50 pounds of marijuana in a garbage bag and 4.8 grams of the drug in a small bag under the driver's side floor mat in the vehicle. Deputies also found a marijuana cigarette in Davila-Alvarez's pocket, the sheriff's report said.

Davila-Alvarez was being held in the Manatee County jail on \$20,000.

Beating suspect arrested

MANATEE — Deputies hit a 49-year-old man with a Taser and arrested him Wednesday afternoon in the 900 block of 51st Avenue East on suspicion of domestic battery, aggravated battery and child abuse.

The suspect, Robin Jackson, who lives at the address where he was arrested just after noon, barricaded himself and said he would shoot law officers if they entered.

"After several minutes of the suspect running in and out of his residence, he was finally confronted" by deputies in the driveway, according to a press release from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. Refusing to comply, Jackson was stunned.

The victims, ages 22, 32 and 47, suffered bruises and scratches, the report said.

— Robert Napper, Gary Taylor and Beth Burger