



**WARREN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Kevin T. Harrison, Sheriff**



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PRESS RELEASE

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Warren County Sheriff Kevin Harrison reports the arrest of two suspects for a recent crime spree involving the burning of several patrol vehicles, the theft and burning of a truck on the railroad tracks, several instances of stealing, and a residential burglary. The investigation spanned three days and involved the Patrol Division and Detective Bureau of the Warren County Sheriff's Department, the Warrenton Police Department, the Warrenton Fire Department, the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.



The two suspects arrested were identified as:



Corey M. Puetz, W, M, 21 Years Old
200 Block Granada, Warrenton MO
Burglary 1st Degree
Stealing Motor Vehicle
Stealing Over \$500
Bond \$100,000.00 Cash Only



Xavier D. Washington, B, M, 19 Years Old
300 Block Dahlgren, Warrenton MO
Burglary 1st Degree
Stealing Motor Vehicle
Stealing Over \$500
Bond \$100,000.00 Cash Only

The criminal activity started last Thursday August 12, 2010 around 1:30am when the two suspects attempted to burn a Warren County Sheriff's Department patrol vehicle on the back lot of the courthouse in Warrenton by placing a firework into the fuel filler tube and lighting. The fire didn't catch and there was no damage to this vehicle. The suspects left and stole a can of gas from a nearby residence and returned to the parking lot and placed a gasoline soaked rag in the filler tube of another patrol vehicle, poured gasoline on the car, and then ignited the rag. The suspects fled the area on foot, and watched the vehicle burn from a distance. The Warrenton Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire, but the car was a total loss.

Later on this same day the suspects broke into several vehicles in the area of Binkley Woods Park in Warrenton and stole keys, a cell phone, and a GPS unit.

The suspects also stole a truck from a residence on Morgan Street in Warrenton and hid it at another location so they could return and burn it at a later time.

The suspects then broke into an occupied residence on Morsey Street in Warrenton in an attempt to steal items from within the residence. The suspects fled the residence when confronted by the homeowner.

Around 11:45pm on this same day the suspects used a weed-killer style pressure sprayer to spray gasoline on three of the Warrenton Police Department patrol vehicles parked on their parking lot at city hall. The suspects lit the gas and watched as the fire burned out. The suspects then left and stole charcoal lighter fluid and additional gasoline from nearby homes, and returned and sprayed the fuel on the vehicles again. Once ignited a second time one of the patrol cars began to burn. A patrolman from the Warrenton Police was exiting the station at the time and noticed the blaze, and was able to put out the fire with an extinguisher. The fire caused moderate damage to one of the patrol vehicles.

On Saturday August 14 around 12:15am the suspects took the truck they had previously stolen off Morgan Street and drove it down the railroad tracks in Warrenton. They drove the vehicle on the tracks into the area of the Highway 47 overpass, and lit it on fire.

On Saturday morning a Warren County Sheriff's Deputy received a citizen tip regarding a conversation pertaining to a burned truck that the resident had overheard. This key piece of information directed investigators to other persons with information regarding the suspects and their activities over the past several days. As a result of the citizen tip and the coordinated investigation involving five agencies both suspects were located and taken into custody by the end of the day on Saturday.

Harrison stated he was relieved that the situation was resolved when it was due to the fact that the actions of the suspects were becoming more violent with each incident. We were fortunate nobody was injured and that there wasn't more damage as a result of the burning of the patrol cars, but most importantly that the truck on the railroad tracks didn't cause a derailment in the middle of town. This scenario could have resulted in a catastrophic event within a residential area.

The criminal charges pertaining to the burning of the patrol cars, burning the truck on the tracks, and delaying and interfering with train traffic is being coordinated between the Warren County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office.



Sheriff Kevin T. Harrison