



LEA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Byron Wester • Sheriff

1417 S. Commercial
Lovington, NM 88260
Phone: 575-396-3611
Fax: 575-396-6242

News Release

Lea County Sheriff's Office

September 27, 2017 at approximately 5pm Deputies with the Lea County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the 9900 block of North Monarch Drive in Hobbs, New Mexico for a suspicious vehicle. A caller reported individuals outside a brown in color van unloading property into another vehicle. When Deputies arrived in the area they observed a van which was observed leaving the area. The vehicle appeared to be having engine problems. A Deputy stopped the vehicle at State Road 18 and Frontage road. The vehicle driver was identified as, Billy Wayne Rogers 33 of Hobbs. A records check showed the brown van was reported stolen from the City of Hobbs on September 27, 2017.

A passenger located inside the vehicle was identified as Drake Griffin 28, of Hobbs. It was observed Griffin had red in color paint on his left arm. It was also observed the brown van had business decals covered with red paint.

It was later determined during the investigation both, Rogers and Griffin had removed several items without authorization from the van such as hand tools, drill, hammer drill, extension ladder and cooper wire. All property which was removed from the van was recovered by the Lea County Sheriff's Office at a residence in the 9900 block of North Monarch Drive.

Billy Wayne Rogers was charged with the following criminal offenses;

Burglary (4th Degree Felony 1 count), Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (4th Degree Felony 1 count), Receiving or Transferring Stolen Vehicle or Motor Vehicles, no bond was set at the time of arrest. It was also discovered Rogers had an outstanding arrest warrant for Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle out of Otero County New Mexico, Bond was set at \$5,000.00 cash or surety. Rogers also had an outstanding Arrest Order for the State of New Mexico Corrections Department, Probation and Parole Division, with No Bond.

Drake Griffin was charged with the following criminal offenses;

Burglary (4th Degree Felony 1 count), Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (4th Degree Felony 1 Count), Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (4th Degree Felony 1 Count). No bond was set at the time of arrest.



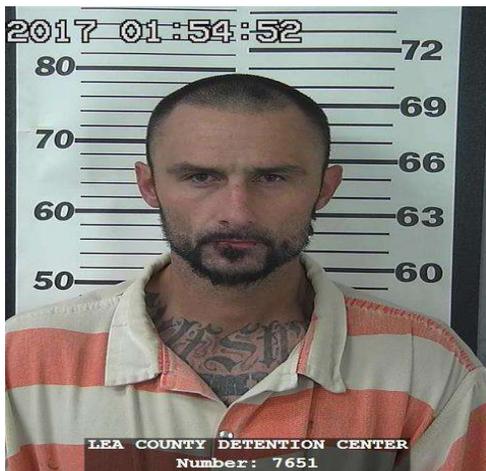
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Both suspects were booked into the Lea County Detention Facility located in Lovington without incident.

The Lea County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens to request a Deputy to please call the Lea County Sheriff's Office at (575) 396-3611 or to report criminal or suspicious activities to the Lea County Crime Stoppers at (575) 393-8005. Caller may remain anonymous.



Billy Wayne Rogers



Drake Griffin

Anthony Budrow, Chief Deputy

Lea County Sheriff's Office

(575) 396-8200 Office

(575) 396-6555 Fax