

Area Men Charged With Burglary

Troopers On Routine Patrol Find Suspicious Situation

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PERRYSBURG - Two area men have been charged after being found by New York state troopers in the abandoned J.N. Adam Memorial Hospital in Perrysburg on Tuesday.

Benjamin Pollard, 46, of Daily Hill Road, Kennedy, and Edgar Shirley, 26 of Fluvanna Avenue, Jamestown, were charged with third-degree burglary and criminal possession of burglary tools Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. after state troopers allegedly found them in the abandoned hospital on Air View Drive in Perrysburg.

A pair of troopers were checking the buildings and grounds of the abandoned hospital when they became suspicious of a duffel bag they saw in the hospital's old power plant. The bag was filled with hacksaw blades.

"Troopers (Anthony) Comstock and (Stephen) Packard were just doing proactive police work and decided to walk through the facility and the grounds yesterday," said Christopher Wysocki, a State Police investigator.

As they continued to check the interior of the building, Comstock and Packard heard noises coming from a tunnel running between the power plant and the hospital's main building.

"While they were walking through the inside of the facility, they heard a sawing sound," Wysocki said.

The two troopers moved toward the noises in the tunnel and allegedly found Pollard and Shirley using the saw.

"At that time they caught the two individuals in the act of attempting to cut copper pipe," he said.

The two had allegedly started cutting the copper pipes in the tunnel in hopes of selling the metal for scrap.

According to Wysocki, the two men were taken into custody without incident.

Numerous hacksaws and other burglary type tools were recovered at the scene, according to police. The two were taken into custody without incident and processed at the State Police Collins barracks.

The two men were arraigned in Persia Town Court and sent to the Cattaraugus County Jail on \$1,500 cash bail or \$3,000 property bond.

They are due in Perrysburg Town Court at 7 p.m. today.