



Putnam County Justice Center
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10/1/2016

Juvenile Detention Subjects Captured

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Late this morning, Putnam County Sheriff's Office deputies and Livingston Police Department officers apprehended two violent juvenile offenders who had overpowered a Corrections Deputy at 8:40 p.m. last night in the Putnam County Juvenile Detention Center. The two subjects restrained the deputy with force and were able to handcuff him to a fixed object in the facility. The subjects then robbed the deputy of his personal property including the keys to his personal vehicle. The two subjects immediately fled from the area of the building in the deputy's Grey 2003 Chevrolet pickup truck.

Following multiple leads, the vehicle was found at an abandoned house in Overton County and within just a few hours, the subjects were apprehended on East Main Street at the Triangle Gas Station by Major Terry Hembree of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and Chief Greg Etheridge and Officer Jeremy Laycox of the Livingston Police Department. The subjects were transported back to the Juvenile Detention Center in Putnam County.

Subject Robert "Robbie" Syverson, 16 years of age, is charged with Aggravated Assault and Escape. Subject Jonathan Smith, 15 years of age, is charged with Aggravated Assault and Escape.

As the investigation continues, additional charges may be pending against anyone who aided and abetted the juveniles to evade law enforcement. A request will be made to the judge to have the two juveniles charged as adults.

"This incident is a good illustration of the danger inmates pose to our deputies and staff every day regardless of their age or maturity," said Tim Nash, Chief of Corrections for the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. "Thankfully, the deputy sustained only minor injuries and the other detainees within the facility were unharmed."

The Putnam County Juvenile Detention Center is housed in an older facility that was not originally designed to house high risk offenders. Although security measures have been updated over the years, it is still designated a minimum security facility. The Sheriff's Office makes every effort to monitor its population and transfer out more aggressive, violent offenders but sometimes it is difficult to find other juvenile detention facilities that can house these individuals. However, there were some policies and procedures that were violated last night and Sheriff Farris said they will not be tolerated and will be corrected.

"While this incident did take place, I am pleased with the overwhelming response of our law enforcement partners in the surrounding communities that assisted us and enable us to make a quick arrest of these two violent offenders," said Sheriff Eddie Farris.

There is an ongoing investigation into this incident. If anyone has additional information regarding this incident, they are encouraged to call the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at 931-258-8484.

"Earning the Public's Trust Every Day!"