Hoquiam Couple Spot Burglar in Vacant Home

Local News

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Hoquiam, WA - A Keen eye and helpful neighbors stopped a daylight burglary Tuesday that Hoquiam Police Chief Jeff Myers says would not have been detected otherwise.

Myers said a Hoquiam couple were walking their dog past a vecant home in the 300 block of Karr Avenue when they noticed a crawl space panel appeared to have been kicked in. As they called 911, the couple said they heard noises coming from underneath the home and saw someone crawling around in the attached garage.

Hoquiam officers arrived and spotted the same thing, a 44 year old Hoquiam man trying to get scrap metal from the home's water heater. The man complied to officer commands to get on the ground, the problem arose when officers realized they'd have to break into the garage to take him into custody. Myers said "It was clear the man had broken into the crawl space under the main house area and crawled all the way under the house to the adjacent attached garage through an access hatch."

Officers eventually ordered the man to crawl back out where he was taken into custody without incident. The convicted felon, was booked into the county jail for one count of felony residential burglary. Officers are now attempting to identify the owner of the residence or the mortgage lender who has taken possession of the home.“I commend the neighbors for keeping an eye on this property for the safety of their neighborhood. This was a daylight burglary which would not have been detected had it not been for their vigilance and willingness to check on their suspicions.” - Chief Jeff MyersThe residence will likely be added to the list for the volunteer CRIME WATCH residence check program.