

Despite chase, burglar escapes capture in Amity

By Brandie Kessler
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AMITY — A man police believe burglarized at least three Amity apartments in the past several days had to work a little harder for his spoils Thursday afternoon when one of his victims caught him red-handed and chased him from the scene, according to police.

"I just heard him going through the front door," resident Philip Care said. "I was mad."

Care was coming home for lunch to the unoccupied apartment at Heritage Amity Commons he shares with his mother, Kelly Trout, and Gary Penkunas. He was attempting to enter the apartment at 600 D Lake Drive through the rear door when he heard someone rummaging around inside.

When Care heard the intruder exit the apartment through the front door, he decided to run around the end of the apartment and chase after him.

Having only seen the man from behind, Care described him as "a tall, white skinny guy, maybe mid 20s, 30s," wearing a dark gray tank top, jean shorts and a tan baseball cap. The man appeared to be about 5 foot 11 inches tall.

Advertisement Although Care attempted to chase after the burglar, the burglar was able to get away, taking with him a blue and tan blanket, checkbook, camcorder and loose change belonging to Care and the other residents.

"I got out to the edge of the (apartment) buildings, and he kept running," Care said. "I called my mom and she called the cops."

Police from Amity Township and the state police responded to the apartment building where they began gathering evidence including fingerprints as the burglar appeared to have gained access to the apartment through a rear window.

Care said he noticed the screen of one of the windows was torn.

Police searched for the burglar around the apartments, along Ben Franklin Highway and in the grassy median between the east and west lanes of the highway. A K9 from Exeter was brought out to assist in the search, however, the burglar was not found Thursday afternoon.

Police said there have been other recent daytime burglaries they believe may be the work of the same burglar.

Police urge residents to keep their doors and windows locked. Any Amity residents who observe suspicious activity or who have information regarding this burglary should report it to Amity Township Police by calling 610-689-6002.

Anyone who walks in on a burglary at their residence should leave the residence immediately, as the intruder may have a weapon, and call 911, police said.