

Johnson County fugitives caught in Ashe and Watauga

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
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Tuesday afternoon, two inmates escaped from Johnson County Jail by cutting the surrounding fence with wire cutters, police say.

The men, both of Mountain City, were 25-year-old Randy Allan Brown and 22-year-old Justin Hamby.

After allegedly stealing an automobile from a neighboring residence, the men parted ways.

In the meantime, Ashe County deputies were on alert for the fugitives. The stolen vehicle, a Subaru, was spotted by an Ashe County deputy according to Sheriff James Williams.

A chase ensued. After crashing his vehicle, Randy Brown jumped off an embankment into some rocks.

Brown had a cracked rib and deputies were able to apprehend him. After receiving medical attention, Brown was sent back to Johnson County.

In the meantime, Watauga Sheriff's deputies helped locate Hamby in a wooded area near the state line. Chesska the K-9 aided in his apprehension.

Brown was serving time for attempted first-degree murder, intentional killing of an animal and other charges. He now faces felony escape and theft of an automobile. Hamby was serving time for theft of property and now faces both felony escape and burglary charges.