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Two teen vandals found

By DCSO Maj. Scott Harden

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DIXIE COUNTY -- As a result of the Dixie County Sheriff's Office's investigation into the damages caused near the New Year's holidays, investigators have filed with the State Attorney's Office on a 16-year-old male juvenile and arrested a 17-year-old male juvenile.

During the course of the investigation investigators identified the 16-year-old as a suspect. After interviewing him, the investigator was contacted the next day by the juvenile's parent and asked if he would be willing to speak with them again.

After meeting with the juvenile and his parents, the investigator was able to obtain the information needed to file with the State Attorney's Office, charging the 16-year-old with felony criminal mischief to Rock Sink Baptist Church, felony criminal mischief to farming equipment in the area and 12 counts of misdemeanor criminal mischief to residential mailboxes in the area.

The 17-year-old boy also was identified and interviewed during the course of the investigation.

During the interview, the investigator noticed an injury to the 17-year-old that could be consistent with blood found on one of the scenes.

During further attempts to interview the 17-year-old, the investigator learned that the family had contacted an attorney. At this point, the investigator obtained a search warrant for the person of the 17-year-old to obtain DNA and fingerprints.

Yesterday (Wednesday, Jan. 16), the investigator executed the search warrant and arrested the 17-year-old charging him with felony criminal mischief to Rock Sink Baptist Church, felony criminal mischief to farming equipment in the area and 12 counts of misdemeanor criminal mischief to residential mailboxes.

After being booked on these charges, the 17-year-old was released to his parents according to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice guidelines.