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Two arrested after home invasion

By QUINN DALY / Journal Staff Writer

MARTINSBURG — As a result of a tip to the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department, two Martinsburg men have been arrested in connection with a home invasion that took place two weeks ago.

Darryl L. Ford, 30, of Central Avenue in Martinsburg, and Steven James Taylor, 20, of Roberts Drive in Martinsburg, were arrested Thursday and charged with burglary, abduction, malicious wounding and first-degree sexual assault.

Police said that early in the morning Aug. 10, Ford and Taylor broke into a home on Rudolph Court with flashlights and ski masks and demanded that the two inhabitants, who had been sleeping, do exactly as they say or they would be killed. The 20- and 21-year-old victims, had their hands bound behind their backs with duct tape. Duct tape also was used to cover their eyes and mouths.

One victim was forced to the floor, and severely beaten with several large objects, including a table and a stereo. The victims were then stomped on so hard that a sneaker print was clearly visible on their backs. One victim also was stabbed once in the shoulder blade.

As the beating continued, the second victim was forced onto a bed and sexually assaulted, police said. Afterward, the victim told police that one of the suspects told them to do as the two men said or they would be killed.

Taylor and Ford left after taking the victims' cellular phones, an X-Box 360, cash, several DVDs, several hats and a chihuahua dog. One of the victims managed to get free and run to a neighbor's house to call 911, at 3:22 a.m.

On Wednesday, a Martinsburg man told the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office that he knew who committed the crime. He said he had seen the suspects with gloves and flashlights and correctly identified several pieces of property that had been stolen, such as the dog.

He also said that Ford worked at Lowes, which was confirmed by officials there. Both Ford and Taylor were arrested Thursday.

They are each being held on \$200,000 bail.

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