

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY OF POPULAR LOCAL SPORTS BAR

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – A 28-year-old Starke resident wielding a sledgehammer was held early this morning on charges of burglary of a Gainesville business.

According to the Alachua County Sherriff's Office, they received a call at 3 a.m. reporting loud noises coming from behind Gator's Dockside, 3842 W. Newberry Rd. Officers found Edward Jon Smithers wearing gloves and homemade stocking mask and carrying both a sledgehammer and a carpenter's hammer.

Smithers used the sledgehammer to pound on the plywood siding near the door of Gator's Dockside, police said. He was in the lounge around midnight and saw that business was good, and a former employee told him the money was kept overnight in the cash register before being deposited the next morning.

Smithers was arrested and transported to Alachua County jail on charges of burglary of a business, possession of burglary tools, and criminal mischief. Bail is set at \$12,000.