

MEAGHER, TOM

From: MEAGHER, TOM

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By Aliza Appelbaum

For The Star-Ledger

Call it a snap of good luck.

While on vacation in Madison, Wis., the Myers family of Bloomfield realized one of their bags had been stolen while they posed for a photo in front of the capitol building. When they checked the snapshots, they spotted the thief nabbing the bag in the background of a photo, showed it to the police, and the man was arrested minutes later on the grounds.

"It was such a vacation-gone-wrong story, but with a happy ending," Katharine Myers, 43, said yesterday.

Katharine and John Myers, 39, were in Madison for a wedding when they stopped to take a family photo outside the capitol building, where the ceremony had been held. Katharine said her husband likes to take lots of family photos, and especially wanted one with the kids -- Matilda, 6, and Charlie, 4 -- dressed up for the event.

As they went to leave for the reception, John noticed the bag containing his wallet, iPad and keys to the rental car had gone missing.

After circling the building and checking with lost and found, John realized the thief may have already been caught in the act.

"Luckily he thought quickly and thought maybe the person taking the bags would be in the background of the photo we took," Katharine said.

Sure enough, there he was: a man in a baseball cap, black shirt and brown dress shoes, in the process of picking up their bag on the right side of their family photo.

John took the photo to the Wisconsin Capitol Police, whose office is located inside the building.

"They were so great, just sprang right into action," Katharine said. "They had walkie-talkies and ran around looking for him. They found him right away, he was just walking around wearing the bag."

The suspect, , was charged with and is being held at, according to Emily Winiky, a spokeswoman for the Wisconsin Capitol Police.

The thief had removed a few items, Katharine said, including a small backpack of the kids' toys and some extra cables, but the police were able to recover those items as well.

"It was kind of an emotional roller coaster, but it was really super lucky that everything worked out the way it did," Katharine said.

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