



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Suspicious Vehicle Call Leads to Arrests, Recovery of Stolen Property, Drugs

Pueblo, CO: A tip from an observant citizen about a suspicious vehicle at a Pueblo West home followed by solid police work by Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies led to the arrest of three people Thursday night, the recovery of a stolen vehicle and a small amount of heroin.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a home in the 700 block of S. Marcus Drive just after noon Thursday after a citizen called to report a suspicious vehicle at the residence. The caller stated a 2013 black Dodge Durango arrived at the residence and several people got out and ran into the home. When deputies got to the residence, they saw the Durango parked behind the home but did not contact the residents as the vehicle was parked on private property. The deputy ran the license plates on the vehicle and learned they did not belong to the Durango. As the deputy was sitting in his patrol vehicle near the home, he was contacted by a woman who told him the Durango belonged to her and that she had reported it stolen in the City of Pueblo in January.

Since the license plates did not belong to the vehicle and the vehicle matched the description of the stolen Durango, the deputy sought and received a warrant to search the property to determine the ownership of the vehicle. Sheriff's detectives assisted in executing the search warrant and learned the vehicle was the reported stolen Durango. Detectives received permission from the owner to search the vehicle and found a small amount of heroin, a stolen laptop computer and assorted tools typically used in committing burglaries. Due to the items found in the vehicle, detectives also sought and executed a search warrant on the home, where they found suspected heroin in syringes, assorted drug paraphernalia and stolen checks.

Two women in the home identified as Michelle Mass, 27, and Dusti Stephens, 35, voluntarily came out of the residence and were questioned by deputies. Deputies learned both had warrants and were arrested. Mass, who initially provided a false name, was also arrested for criminal impersonation.

In executing the search warrant, detectives discovered Juan Perez, 26, sleeping in the home. Detectives learned through the investigation that Perez was identified as the individual who was driving the stolen Durango. He was arrested for aggravated motor vehicle theft. Mass, Stephens and Perez have been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

The investigation into the incident is ongoing and further charges may be forthcoming.

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor credited the alert citizen for contacting the Sheriff's Office immediately after noticing the suspicious activity. The rapid response from deputies along with solid police work led to the apprehension of these suspects.

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