



Car thieves pick wrong canyon for escape



The Treo "A" Team out of Yakima, Washington.

TREO hunting group captures two burglary suspects; shot fired at Rhea Creek resident

By David Sykes

A pair of burglary suspects on the run in a stolen Jeep picked the wrong canyon for escape Sunday, when they ran into a group of bird hunters on the TREO pheasant hunting ranch. The hunters captured them at gun point and held them there until police arrived.

Daniel Faustino Arce, 28, and Desireea Delane Devin, 23, were lodged in jail with a reported \$1,170,000 total bail. Earlier that day they had allegedly stolen a Jeep Cherokee on Upper Rhea Creek, and then after a high speed chase by a neighbor crashed it on the TREO hunting preserve property past Ruggs off the Heppner-Condon Highway.

The pair had been running from Roger Britt, who tailed them from Upper Rhea Creek where they had stolen the Jeep from Britt's neighbor. Britt said it was early Sunday afternoon and he had been driving past his neighbor's house and saw that the garage door was open, and the vehicle was gone. "I first knew something wasn't right when the garage was open, the vehicle gone and knowing the neighbor was not at home," Britt said. He said he was at the garage when the Jeep came driving down the road with another vehicle close behind. He said when the Jeep drove by he could see it was not his neighbor behind the wheel, and then something else odd happened. "The garage door closed. The people in the



The hunters surround the thieves who had their hands up in the air.



Police arrive at the scene

vehicle had the garage door opener, and they closed the door as they drove by," he said. Then he knew things were not right.



Daniel Faustino Arce



Desireea Delane Devin

Britt said he jumped in his pickup and followed close behind at a high rate of speed down Upper Rhea Creek. He said at one point the white car following the Jeep pulled over, but Britt stayed right with the Jeep. He said that was when the passenger of the Jeep pulled a gun out and fired off a round in his direction. "I could see him fumbling around in there and then he hangs out and fires at

me." Britt said he was close enough he could see the gun out the window, but he was not hit by the round.

Britt said he then pulled over so the passenger couldn't get a clear second shot at him, and again started following them but this time at a great distance. He said he followed the vehicle down to Ruggs and then onto the Heppner-Condon Highway. "I wanted to know which way they went at Ruggs," he explained. After that Britt turned back and stopped at Morrow County Sheriff's Deputy, Terry Harper's, house and notified him so they could call 911.

Meanwhile the thieves broke into a shed on Valby Road and stole gas cans. From there, they ended up stuck in a ditch on Carlson

Lane and tried to set fire to the Jeep on property belonging to TREO Ranches. "The guy who works for me, Pablo Cisneros, came running up and said there was a Jeep Cherokee driving all over the place," TREO owner Phil Carlson said. Carlson was out on a bird hunt with a group from Yakima. Carlson said some chukars had just come up when the hunters saw a girl hiding in the sage brush about 100 yards away, and then the guy stood up.

Carlson said they could see a fire had been started in the canyon and they grabbed some water jugs to go put it out. He said a gas can was on fire where the thieves had tried to torch the Jeep. "We started putting two and two together at that time," Carlson said.

Then hunters looked at each other, and since they were hunting with shotguns, said "let's go get the AR15s." Carlson said they went to their pickup and got out AR15 rifles, pistols and even some knives. The Yakima hunters surrounded the suspects with guns drawn, while Carlson went up to get phone service and call 911. "Those Yakima hunters are something else," Carlson said about the group, which after this event he called the "A" team. They come to hunt every year on the ranch, Carlson said. He said one of them said, "This is the real thing."

"It was a perfect storm," Carlson said of the capture. "It happened that the canyon the car thieves went up was where we were hunting. And they (the hunters) had some firepower. They weren't going anywhere," he said of the suspects. From there the Oregon State Police and Morrow County Sheriff's Department arrived and took the suspects into custody. They were lodged in the Umatilla County Jail with the fol-

lowing charges filed: two counts of burglary I, one count of burglary II, two counts of criminal trespass, one count of theft over \$1,000, one count of unauthorized use of vehicle (felony), one count of arson, one count of criminal mischief II (vandalism) and one count of attempted murder (felony). Bail was set for Arce at \$685,000 and for Devin at \$485,000.

Court records show Arce began serving two years of probation in August 2016 in Jefferson County for methamphetamine possession, which he violated this past August. Devin faced meth and hydrocodone possession, unlawful possession of a gun and driving under the influence of intoxicants in 2014 in Jefferson County. She took a deal and pleaded guilty to the meth possession and entered drug court and a DUI diversion program. Devin completed diversion in November 2015 and the court dismissed the DUI case against her. The two apparently live together in Madras.

Arce was also involved and sentenced for criminal activity on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. In 2012, he pleaded guilty to a felon in possession of a firearm in connection to a drive by shooting and was sentenced to 37 months in prison.

Phil's brother, Clint Carlson posted pictures on his Facebook page and commented, "One take away from this event: This is why we have the second amendment. Law enforcement is a long way away when felons come knocking at your property."

Another great turn out at the 2017 Celebrate Heppner Christmas event



Above: The Worden Family (+1) poses for pictures with Santa and Ms. Claus clockwise from bottom left: Eva Worden, Lucas Worden, Jaylee Schlaich, Daemon Worden and Arianna Worden. Photo by David Sykes Right: Scrooge & John Edmondson have a little fun during dinner at the Celebrate Heppner Christmas event. -Photo by David Sykes



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