

Bend Man Arrested in Mall Parking Lot on Drug, Weapons Charges

by Richard Burton

A 21-year old Bend man was arrested Monday afternoon on drug and weapon charges when detectives witnessed him attempting to sell crystal methamphetamine in the parking lot of Cascade Village Shopping Center in north Bend, said authorities.

According to a news release issued by the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, members of the task force received credible information during the month of November that Jose Esteban Espinosa Lopez was involved in drug sales. While under surveillance, detectives witnessed Espinoza Lopez selling crystal meth, said Sgt. Scott Shelton.

Detectives seized crystal meth, a 9mm handgun and ammunition in the arrest of Jose Esteban Espinosa Lopez. Photos provided by CODE and DCJ. About 3 p.m. November 20, detectives observed "what they believed" was the subject preparing to make a drug delivery in the parking lot of the shopping center at Highway 20 and Robal Road, said Shelton.

When detectives searched the suspect and the vehicle he was in, they found 42.9 grams of crystal methamphetamine (approximately 1.5 ounces having a street value of over \$1,500), a 9mm Hi-Point handgun with ammunition, drug sales records, gram-quantity weight scales, and 32 unknown pills. In a continuing investigation, the pills will be sent to the Oregon State Police (OSP) crime lab for analysis.

Espinoza Lopez was taken into custody and lodged at the Deschutes County Jail. He will face charges of possession, manufacturing, and delivery of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and unlawful possession of a weapon.

The Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE Team is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force comprised of detectives from all Central Oregon law enforcement agencies including: Bend Police Department, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Redmond Police Department, Crook County Sheriff's Office, Prineville Police Department, Oregon State Police, Jefferson County Sheriffs Department, United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Deschutes County District Attorney and the Oregon National Guard.

Bend Man Arrested in Mall Parking Lot on Drug, Weapons Charges by Richard Burton