Owners of Rigobertoâ€™s Taco Shop busted for alleged drug sales

by Cheryl McDermott & BWNS

BEND, Ore. â€“ Police say that two 23-year old brothers who own Rigobertoâ€™s Taco Shop West are believed to have been â€œmajor sourcesâ€• for both street and dealer-level sales of methamphetamine. The two were arrested Thursday after an extensive and lengthy joint investigation led to a raid on their homes and the popular eatery, and detectives seized $22,000 worth of meth, marijuana, over $37,800 in cash, six firearms and two vehicles.

Damian Castaneda-Nino (left), and Julian Castaneda-Nino (right) â€“ DCJ photos

Over $37,800 in cash and about $22,000 in meth, plus two ounces of pot were seized â€“ CODE photo

Six firearms were also discovered â€“ CODE photo

Bend Police Lt. John Gautney, working with the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, said police have been investigating the alleged distribution of meth through the restaurant at 1365 NW Galveston Avenue for months. Undercover officers had â€“ several times â€“ bought drugs directly from the owners, Damian and Julian Castaneda-Nino, the lieutenant stated in a news release.

CODE detectives, assisted by Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies and their drug-detecting dog â€œMissyâ€•, Oregon State Police troopers and Bend Police raided the restaurant and the brothersâ€™ residences March 26 about 4 p.m.

During a search of the taco shop, Apartment #3 at 315 NW Bond Street and 19982 Cliffrose Drive, detectives discovered and seized more than five ounces of meth, two ounces of marijuana, weight scales and packaging materials, over $37,800 in cash, and six firearms. They also seized two pickup trucks, Gautney said.

â€œIt was evident from their actions that Damian and Julian were a major source of methamphetamine at both the street level as well as the dealer level,â€• Lt. Gautney said, adding that the street value of the total meth seized during execution of the search warrants and the quantity purchased by the undercover officers is estimated at $22,000. â€œThe dealer value would just be over $11,500.â€• he said.

The Castaneda-Nino brothers were arrested and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail. They are both charged with possession, delivery and manufacture of both methamphetamine and marijuana; as well as conspiracy to possess, deliver and manufacture meth. In addition, Damian is being held on a Deschutes County Parole and Probation detention warrant.

The investigation is continuing, Lt. Gautney said.