

Two Bend men arrested in Central Oregon meth sales

by Cheryl McDermott

Detectives arrested two Bend men Thursday afternoon when they were observed allegedly selling drugs in Redmond, then followed with raids at the suspects' Bend home and another residence in Madras. During a search of the suspects and their vehicle, one-quarter pound of crystal methamphetamine and \$2,000 cash were seized.

One-quarter pound of crystal meth was found in the vehicle's glove compartment " CODE photo
Jeronimo Pineda-Pineda (left), Alberardo Diaz-Garcia (right) " DCJ photos

In a month-long joint investigation by the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) and Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE) team, detectives received credible information that Jeronimo Pineda-Pineda, 21, and Alberardo Diaz-Garcia, 26, were involved in the sales and distribution of meth in Central Oregon areas including Bend, Redmond, and Madras.

SCU and CODE detectives set up surveillance that monitored the activities of both suspects, and on March 29 at 1:30 p.m. the two men were observed making an alleged drug sale near the intersection of Highway 97 and Maple Street in Redmond, Deschutes County Sheriff's detective Sgt. Scott Shelton reported.

Assisted by Redmond Police officers, detectives conducted a traffic stop on the two men's vehicle, and found \$2,000 in cash and 112 grams " approximately one-quarter pound worth \$10,000 on the street " of crystal meth, Shelton said.

Both men were taken into custody and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail where they face charges of conspiracy, possession, delivery, and manufacture of a controlled substance (methamphetamine). According to a jail administrator, both men are being detained without bail on a federal immigration "hold".

Later that afternoon about 3:30 p.m., the two suspects' residence at unit # 35 in the Country Terrace Apartments at 61550 Brosterhous Road in Bend and a Madras home at 1728 Clackamas Street were simultaneously raided, the sergeant wrote in a news release.

In addition to SCU and CODE detectives, law enforcement officers from Jefferson and Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Offices, Bend and Redmond Police Departments, and Oregon State Police executed the warrants. Neither home was occupied during the raids, Shelton said.

The joint SCU/CODE investigation is ongoing.

SCU is operated by the Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office and the Redmond Police Department.

CODE is a multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force comprised of detectives from all Central Oregon law enforcement agencies including Bend, Redmond and Prineville Police Departments; Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson County Sheriffâ€™s Offices; Oregon State Police; US Drug Enforcement Administration; the Oregon National Guard; and the Deschutes County District Attorney.

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