

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE : January 25, 2013

RELEASED BY : Detective Sgt. Jason Hail / Sergeant G. Reeves

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*******UPDATED PRESS RELEASE: TWO MORE SUSPECTS IN CUSTODY*******

Deputies from the Butte County Sheriff's Office following up on leads regarding this case have arrested two more individuals for their part in the home invasion robbery. Late Thursday evening into early Friday morning, Sheriff's detectives located the first outstanding suspect, identified as Marcus Dimitri Jones (age 35) who was arrested at his residence on W. 2nd Avenue in Chico, California.

Later, Sheriff's detectives located an outstanding vehicle associated with the robbery at a local Oroville casino and followed it back to a residence in the Kelly Ridge area of Oroville. Deputies made contact with the last remaining suspect, identified as Derek Elden Pierce (age 31) at a residence on Royal Oaks Drive, Oroville.

The motive for the robbery appears to be for firearms owned by the victim. The robbery took place at a residence on Lone Oak Drive in Forbestown. It was initially reported that the suspects stole firearms among other items. Based on current information, it appears that most of the property taken has been recovered.

Both Jones and Pierce were booked into the Butte County Jail, Oroville on charges of burglary, vehicle theft, robbery, possession of stolen property and false imprisonment. The bail was set at \$195,000 for each.

ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE:

On 1/24/13, about 4:20 PM, a resident of Forbestown called the Butte County Sheriff's Office to report that two men had forced their way into his home, sprayed him with pepper spray and left in his truck along with items from his home. Deputy Grant Landis saw a vehicle that matched the description of the truck taken in Forbestown travelling west on Olive Highway at a high rate of speed, approaching Foothill Boulevard at about 4:35 PM.

Deputy Landis got behind the truck as it turned onto Foothill Boulevard and proceeded north at speeds up to 70 mph. As the truck entered the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Oroville-Quincy Highway, the driver lost control and crashed the truck into a power pole, shearing it off at the ground. The truck impacted another vehicle and a fire hydrant before coming to rest against a large boulder. The impact into the power pole caused a strain on the wires entering a vacant residence and a fire started in the home. The driver of the pickup exited, and ran between two homes, up the hill toward Canyon Highlands Drive. Deputy Landis gave pursuit on foot and took the driver into custody as he was trying to make entry into a home on Canyon Highlands Drive.

The driver of the truck was the sole occupant and was identified as Christopher South, born 5/13/88 and currently on parole for burglary. A search of the truck revealed the can of pepper spray used at the home invasion in Forbestown and the property taken from the same place. South was placed under arrest for possession of stolen property, vehicle theft and home invasion and taken to the Butte County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit for further interview. The case is still under investigation and further charges may be pending.

There were no injuries as a result of this incident. If you have any information regarding this crime, please call the Butte County Sheriff's Office at (530)538-7321.