

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

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SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE : March 11, 2011

RELEASED BY: Sgt. Jason Hail/Felony Investigations Unit

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On March 9, 2011 the Butte County Sheriff's Office began receiving burglary reports from residents in the Silverbell Way, Waterford Drive, and Coronado Drive area of north Chico. These reports increased on the following day, March 10, 2011 resulting in the number of residential daytime burglaries increasing to over ten. Each of the burglaries shared similar methods of entry and similar types of items being stolen. Detectives from the Butte County Sheriff's Office began investigating the crimes and conducted an undercover operation in the neighborhood on Friday, March 11, 2011. This included several unmarked vehicles and a neighborhood canvas alerting the neighborhood to be on the lookout for subjects who were not usually seen in the area acting suspicious.

On March 11, 2011 at approximately 1130 hours, the Sheriff's Office dispatch received a call from a resident on Waterford Drive, alerting us that three suspicious males were in front of 455 Waterford Drive. Deputies responded to the area and contacted the three subjects. One of the subjects, described as a white male adult, tall and slender build wearing a dark colored sweatshirt fled through the residence and out of the back door. The subject hopped fences and was able to flee the area. The two other subjects fled from the residence and were apprehended at the intersection of Waterford Drive and Joshua Tree. The two subjects, both juveniles ages 15 and 16, were found to be in possession of property stolen from a few of the residences in the neighborhood. They were both taken into custody and later booked into the Butte County Juvenile Hall on charges of ten counts of burglary and possession of stolen property. One of the juveniles was later charged with being armed in the commission of a felony.

The residence that they were initially contacted at, 455 Waterford Drive #A, Chico was initially believed to be where they were staying, but it was later determined that they were in the progress of burglarizing the residence when contacted.

A search of the immediate area was conducted and a stolen handgun and fixed blade knife was recovered in front of the 455 Waterford Drive residence.

Detectives continued to search the area for the outstanding suspect and while doing so, discovered the majority of property that had been stolen from the victim's residences in a water heater closet located at 453 Posada Way, Chico. Most of the stolen property has been identified and returned to the owners.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the residents in the neighborhood for their cooperation with the investigation and calling in suspicious activity.

The Sheriff's Office is continuing to follow up on leads in an attempt to identify and locate the one outstanding suspect in this case. Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call the Butte County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit at 530-538-7671.