



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

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Thousands in Stolen Equipment Quickly Recovered, Suspect Identified

Pueblo, CO: Solid investigative work by Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies and detectives led to the swift identification of a suspect and the recovery of a stolen truck, trailer and excavator worth more than \$160,000 taken in a burglary at a Vineland area home Thursday morning.

Deputies responded to a report of a home that had been burglarized in the area of 36th Lane at about 10 a.m. and learned that a 2019 Dodge 5500 Crew Cab truck had been taken along with an attached trailer containing an excavator. Personal checks were also reported taken in the burglary.

Less than an hour after the crime was reported, deputies received a report that a man had attempted to cash one of the stolen checks at a Downtown bank. The suspect, who was in a 1993 blue GMC truck reported stolen out of Fountain, drove away erratically as law enforcement was arriving in the area. The suspect hit a cement pillar and another vehicle as it eluded law enforcement. No one was injured. No arrests have been made; however, deputies have identified the suspect in the attempted check-cashing incident as Ricardo Gomez, 25. Gomez is also wanted on five outstanding warrants.

Later in the afternoon, detectives tracked the stolen Dodge to El Paso County where members of a BATTLE (Beating Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement) task force unit from Colorado Springs located the excavator dumped in Fountain. Pueblo County Sheriff's detectives then learned the Dodge was headed back to Pueblo, where they later found the trailer and truck abandoned in separate locations in the city. Detectives are still investigating who was driving the Dodge truck.

The GMC truck, which has severe damage to the right side, has not been located. The investigation into this incident is ongoing. Further information will be released as it becomes available.

Anyone with information about Gomez's whereabouts, the location of the GMC truck or this crime is asked to call the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office at (719) 583-6400 or (719) 583-6250. To remain anonymous call Crime Stoppers at (719) 542-STOP (7867) or online at www.pueblocrimestoppers.com.

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