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ROBBERY SUSPECT IDENTIFIED Suspect identified and arrested

Mesa County, Colorado- Thanks to information from the community, Mesa County Sheriff's Deputies were able identify the driver of the van, who helped in the Enterprise Liquor Store donation jug theft on 12/04/2012.

Bobby Lloyd Mestas, 42 of Grand Junction was arrested on Friday night after deputies found his van abonded on the side of the road.

Mestas was booked into jail on multiple driving violations, a violation of bail bonds, 2nd degree burglary, complicity, and theft.

Deputies know that Mestas was not alone at the time of the theft, and urge anyone who has any information on this case to please call non-emergency dispatch at (970) 242.6707.

Find Arrest Affidavit and Mug Shot below.

Previously released— At 2 p.m., local dispatch received a call regarding a theft from Enterprise Liquor Store, 2923 North Avenue, Grand Junction. The store had a large plastic jar on the counter with donations for a local high school student trying to study abroad.

The store clerk and another witness from the parking lot followed the suspect vehicle for a short time, to the intersection of 30 Road and I-70 Business Loop, and then returned to the store. The vehicle is described as an older model Chevy van, white in color and full size. It has a lot of windows and a luggage rack on the top.

The driver of the van is described as a tall, white male in his 40's or 50's with a beard. The suspect is described as a male in his 20's with darker skin, possibly Hispanic. He has hair over his ears and was wearing a gray hoodie or sweatshirt.

Anyone with information about this case or the identity of the driver or suspect should call non-emergency dispatch at (970) 242.6707.

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12/22/12

State of Colorado, County of Mesa
Affidavit In Support of Warrantless Arrest

2012-00034614

***** ARREST AFFIDAVIT *****

I, **Ben Marsh** of the **Mesa County Sheriff's Office**, a Colorado peace officer, being duly sworn and under oath states that probable cause exists for warrantless arrest of the person named below, and that the following facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and support the arrest of the defendant. All locations are in Mesa County, State of Colorado unless otherwise noted.

Mesa County Sheriff's Office Incident: 2012 - 00034614

Suspect: Mestas, Bobby Lloyd
DOB: 03/08/70
White Male // Wt: 180 // Ht: 6'1"
Eyes: Brown // Hair: Brown

Date of Arrest: 12/22/12 @ 1645 Hours

Place of Arrest: 215 Rice St. MCSO Jail (Mesa County) Colorado

Victim: 1-Enterprise Liquor Store 2923 North Ave.
2-State of Colorado

Charges: CRS 18-4-203(1) Second Degree Burglary (F5) (COMPLICITY)
CRS 18-4-401(2)(b.5) Theft (M2) (COMPLICITY)
CRS 18-1-603 Complicity (To above charges only)
CRS 42-2-206(1)(a) Driving After Revocation Prohibited HTO (M1)
CRS 42-2-138(1)(d) Driving Under Restraint (Alcohol related offense)(M)
CRS 42-3-121(1)(b) Violation of Registration (Fictitious Plates) (M2)

On 12/3/12 at approximately 1354 hours I was dispatched to Enterprise Liquor, 2923 North Ave., Mesa County Colorado, for a report of a burglary which had just occurred. Dispatch aired the store clerk had followed the suspect vehicle which was a white van bearing CO Plate 333-PNH.

I arrived at the store and spoke to the clerk who was identified as Lori Popick (DOB 4/30/59) Lori told me she was stocking the shelves when she heard the chime of the front door, letting her know a customer had entered. Lori said she heard the distinct sound of a plastic 5 gallon "Deep rock" water jug which was placed on the front counter. Lori explained inside the water jug was cash charity donations for a local high school student to assist with financing a study abroad trip, which contained between \$500 and \$800. Lori said she knew by the sound that the jug had been moved and ran towards the doors to see a male leaving the store with the jug. Lori followed the male out of the store and asked a female, later identified as Lucinda Prigmore (DOB 1/16/57), where the male went. Lucinda pointed towards a white van and asked Lori if she needed a ride.

Lucinda told Lori to get into her vehicle and the two women followed the van as it headed East on I70B towards the intersection of 30 Rd and the Business Loop. Lucinda pulled up next to the van and Lori told the passenger, who she saw leave with the jug, to return the money. Lori said the male asked something to the effect of "What money". Lori told me she answered to the male "The money you were just counting", as Lori witnessed the driver and passenger counting. Both Lori and Lucinda were able to see the driver of the van, and also got detailed description of the van and its license plate 333-PNH.

The CO license plate 333-PNH returned from DMV with no record. Dispatch was able to have the DMV do a search on the plate and it returned to an expired plate on a sedan which had been registered to a

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male who I confirmed was out of state at the time of the incident, and no longer in possession of the license plate.

On 12/13/12 I received an anonymous tip with information about this case. The anonymous caller told me they knew Bobby Mestas (DOB 3/8/70) was involved in the theft from Enterprise Liquors on 12/4/12. I was told by the caller that they believed Bobby was driving the van during and after the theft, and it was another unknown male who had committed the actual theft. The caller had heard Bobby make mention that he had license plates on the van that were not registered to him, and that he could not be found due having done this. I was told that Bobby had since removed the license plate he had on the van at the time of the theft, and put a different plate on the van.

Bobby was also heard saying a store employee had followed him in a vehicle after the theft and confronted him. Bobby stated he was confident he would not be found due to the false plates he had on the van. The anonymous caller told me they were aware that donation money was taken, and knew it was in a plastic jug, however did not know the exact amount of money that was taken. The caller said they had not seen the jug and was not present during the theft and had only over heard Bobby talking and bragging about the theft.

On 12/21/12 I assisted a vehicle that was broken down on the side of the road. The vehicle was a white Chevrolet van bearing CO plate 333-PNH. I did not immediately recognize the driver, as he exited the driver's seat, with a gas can in hand and motioned to a gas station just up the street, signifying he was out of gas. I was engaged in conversation on the radio, and was trying to direct traffic from the traffic obstruction we had created. I motioned the driver to go to the gas station. It was not until minutes later when I ran the plate that I realized the vehicle I was out with, was the van used in the theft and burglary in this case. I then recognized the male driver as Bobby Mestas from photo lineups I had created for this case as I had never seen him in person. Bobby left the area and abandoned his van after calling for a ride and could not be questioned about this case. The fictitious plates were confiscated from the van, as they were expired and had been registered to a different vehicle and owner, however displayed current validation tabs. A warrant was issued that afternoon for Bobby with driving related charges, and he was taken into custody later that night.

I attempted to interview Bobby while he was in custody regarding this case however he requested a lawyer and did not want to answer any questions without his lawyer present, no additional information could be gathered.

I ran the VIN on the van in our local records system and learned that GJPD had taken two other reports in recent months where Bobby was arrested or associated with the same van I had witnessed him in; each time with different license plates.

I showed a photo line up to both Lori and Lucinda. Lori was fairly sure Bobby was the man she saw driving the van on the day of the burglary. Lucinda identified Bobby Mestas as the driver of the van. Lori was fairly certain the van I witnessed Bobby in on 12/21/12 was the van used in the theft. Lucinda positively identified the van from the photos I showed her as the one used in the incident on 12/3/12.

I asked dispatch to confirm Bobby's driver's status and it was confirmed with DMV that Bobby's license was revoked as a Habitual Traffic Offender per case 09-15386. It was also confirmed that Bobby's license was revoked on 18 other active cases. Case 09-15387 was an active case where Bobby was found operating a vehicle on a revoked license for an alcohol offence.

Based on the above I believe it is more probable than not, that Bobby aided an unknown suspect by driving his van to and from to Enterprise Liquors to facilitate the commission of the Burglary and Theft. I believe it is also probable that Bobby operated a motor vehicle in the state of Colorado, while his license was both revoked as a Habitual Traffic Offender, and suspended for an alcohol related offense, in different cases. I also believe there is probable cause Bobby displayed fictitious license plates on his van during this incident.

