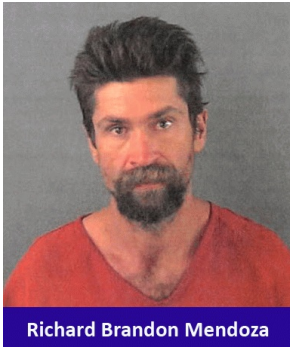




Armed robbery suspect captured; stolen vehicle recovered

August 7, 2018



Richard Brandon Mendoza

A suspect in a Utah armed robbery was captured in Rock Springs early Tuesday morning.

Sweetwater County Sheriff Mike Lowell said that at about 6:18 AM, Deputy Sheriff David Henderson was notified by Sweetwater Combined Communications in Green River of a stolen 2018 Chevrolet Traverse bearing Utah license plates in the area, the driver of which was a suspect in an armed robbery.

The Traverse was fitted with an on-board electronic tracking device, and, as a result, Henderson was able to locate it on the South Side Belt Route in Rock Springs.

Henderson, assisted by other deputies and Rock Springs police officers, stopped the Traverse and arrested the driver and sole occupant, Richard Brandon Mendoza, 46, of Sparks, Nevada.

Mendoza initially failed to comply with instructions to get out of the vehicle, but did so when a county canine deputy at the scene was readied for deployment.

Lowell said county officers are working with Utah authorities, as the investigation continues.

Mendoza remains in custody at the Sweetwater County Detention Center in Rock Springs pending an initial court appearance.



The scene of Richard Mendoza's capture on the South Side Belt route in Rock Springs Tuesday morning.