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Merced County District Attorney's Office Investigations Bureau Makes Arrest



Merced County District Attorney Investigator Struble received a phone call early on June 6, 2022 from a local farmer reporting the attempted theft of a fuel trap wagon from their ranch.

Investigator Struble, assigned to Rural Crimes, met with the farmer to begin the investigation. Surveillance video was provided and showed two subjects, in a black pickup; pull into the ranch in the early morning hours of June 6, 2022. The black pickup parked near the fuel trap wagon, stayed for a short period and then left.

Approximately one hour later, the black pickup returned with the same two individuals inside. This time the black pickup is followed by a silver 4 door vehicle with one person inside. All 3 subjects attempt to connect the fuel trap wagon to the black pick up. They were unsuccessful as an employee of the ranch pulled in as they were attempting to steal the trap wagon, all 3 individuals fled.

Investigator Struble was able to identify the black pickup and owner with the assistance of Merced Police Department, Officer Chavez.

Investigator Struble was able to establish enough probable cause to arrest the driver / owner of the black pickup. On June 22, 2022 Investigator Struble located the black pickup in the area of Atwater Jordon and Bert Crane.

Merced County Sheriff's Deputy Hawkins assisted Investigator Struble in conducting an enforcement stop on the black pickup in the area of Buhach Road and Landrum Ave.

The owner of the black pickup, Pedro Canella Alvarado, 39, was arrested. A search of the vehicle was conducted and a stolen shotgun was located inside the vehicle, along with numerous shotgun rounds. Alvarado was booked into the Merced County Jail.

The Merced County District Attorney's Office has filed the following criminal charges against Pedro Canella Alvarado:

- Possession of a firearm by a prohibited person – felony
- Possession of ammunition by a prohibited person – felony
- Vandalism – felony
- Attempted auto theft – felony
- Attempted grand theft – felony
- Enhancements for being out on bail and/or own recognizance – felony

When Investigator Struble arrested Alvarado on June 22, 2022, Alvarado was currently out of custody, on his own recognizance, pending court for a prior arrest. Alvarado was arrested and charged with possession of a stolen Bobcat Skid Steer on March 6, 2022 by the Merced Police Department.