



# Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### Deputies Arrest Man in Motor Vehicle Theft

**Pueblo, CO:** Utilizing GPS and solid police work, Pueblo County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a 35-year-old man Thursday for motor vehicle theft after he stole a car while the owner was shopping at a Blende business.

Deputies responded to Dollar Tree 1800 Santa Fe Dr., at about 2:45 p.m. on Aug. 15 after a woman reported her 2018 Ford Escape was taken. The woman reportedly had unknowingly dropped her keys while getting out of the vehicle and didn't realize it until she came out and saw her vehicle missing.

A witness told deputies that three men were seen getting into the vehicle and left going eastbound on U.S. Highway 50. Using GPS, deputies were able to quickly track the vehicle to a location in the Minnequa Heights area in the City of Pueblo. Deputies responded to the area and found the vehicle abandoned in the intersection of Oakland and Iowa avenues.

Deputies searched the area and learned a possible suspect was at a home in the 2500 block of Wyoming Avenue. Deputies went to the home where they contacted a woman, but she refused to allow deputies to speak to anyone in the home. The woman did direct deputies to a trash can on the property which contained several items belonging to the victim.

Deputies sought and executed a search warrant at the home and found a man identified as Travis Barela inside the residence who matched the description of one of the suspects in the vehicle theft. Additional items from the victim's vehicle were also found in the residence.

Deputies arrested Barela for aggravated motor vehicle theft and on four outstanding warrants. He was booked into the Pueblo County Jail. He remains in jail on bonds totaling \$31,000. The two other men seen in the stolen vehicle have not been located. Another man who arrived at the home while deputies were there was arrested on an outstanding warrant. The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

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