

NMSP, MCSO collaborate in successful warrant operation

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 23 February 2024 00:00



The New Mexico State Police District 6, in conjunction with the McKinley County Sheriff's Office, executed a successful warrant operation in McKinley County on Feb. 15.

The operation resulted in the arrest of seven individuals.

One of the felony arrests included the apprehension of Samuel Sandoval, 39. While at a residence on Third Street in Gallup, which belonged to a relative of Sandoval, officers and deputies saw a man moving around a pop-up camper on the property. They approached the camper, identified themselves and a tense standoff ensued as Sandoval brandished a firearm and pointed it at law enforcement. Sandoval also claimed to have an explosive device with him inside the camper.

In response to the escalating situation NMSP Tactical Team, Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Crisis Negotiation Team were dispatched to the scene. A short time later, Sandoval surrendered peacefully and was taken into custody without further incident.

A search of the camper led to the discovery of a .50 caliber muzzleloader rifle. Sandoval was arrested for two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer and felon in possession charges. Additionally, he was wanted on two felony warrants for trafficking narcotics.

Sandoval's arrest culminates with a lengthy legal process that began with his evasion from authorities following a jury trial where he was found guilty.

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Including Sandoval's arrest, MCSO and NMSP's efforts on Feb. 15 led to the arrests of seven people and five misdemeanor warrants and two felony warrants were served.

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