

## Coast man charged in December heist

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Of the News-Register

WILLAMINA - A man awaiting trial in Tillamook County in the August robbery of the Wheeler Pharmacy has been charged in the December robbery of Willamina Drugs as well.

Jose Huber Delatorre, 23, and Paul Anthony Lovlin, 20, both of Tillamook, were booked into the Tillamook County Jail in January in connection with the Wheeler robbery. They were each charged with one count of first-degree robbery, one count of first-degree theft and five counts of first-degree kidnapping.

Delatorre now faces a litany of additional charges in Yamhill County - two counts each of first-degree robbery, coercion and menacing, and one count each of first-degree aggravated theft, first-degree burglary, interfering with a police report and unlawful use of a weapon. He also faces a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement hold.

In light of the new charges, his bail has been increased to \$2.85 million. His alleged partner in the coast heist is being held on \$250,000 bail.

A number of the charges in the two cases fall under Measure 11, which establishes lengthy mandatory minimum prison terms on conviction.

Delatorre is scheduled to enter a plea in the Tillamook County case at 2 p.m. Monday, July 30. Lovlin, who has pleaded not guilty, is scheduled to go on trial in that case the same day.

In the Willamina Drugs robbery, two masked men, one of them brandishing a pistol, entered through an unlocked back door as owner Kamal Kotiach and employee Patrick Bowman were preparing to close for the day. They demanded OxyContin, a form of synthetic heroin classified as a Schedule II narcotic.

After obtaining about \$15,000 worth of narcotics and a small amount of cash, the intruders bound the pharmacy personnel with plastic ties and fled on foot. They were described as menacing-looking men dressed in dark clothing.

Five Yamhill County sheriff's deputies and an Oregon State Police trooper quickly converged on the area, but the pair managed to slip through the net.

"When this happened, we had no clues whatsoever," Sheriff Jack Crabtree said. But he said that didn't deter his detectives.

"I said at the time we would bring a suspect or suspects to justice," the sheriff said, "and I'm glad we've done that. Our detectives stuck with it. They were focused."

Crabtree declined to comment on the possibility Lovlin might have partnered with Delatorre in the local heist.

"The detectives will continue working other angles," he said. "We're still looking at that as a possibility. We're

not going to stop with this arrest."

In the Wheeler robbery, two darkly dressed men with handguns made off with a large quantity of pharmaceuticals. They also bound members of the pharmacy staff before fleeing on foot.

Anyone with potentially relevant information is asked to call Yamhill County Sheriff's Detective Jim Carelle at 503- 434-7508.