

Yavapai County Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THUMB BUTTE HOME INVASION MEN PLEAD GUILTY

James McAlister, age 30, and George Wood Jr., age 45, both of Oklahoma, plead guilty to ten felonies stemming from a home invasion that occurred in the evening of March 31 of this year. On that date, the two men forced entry into a home near Thumb Butte after asking to use the phone. Once inside the residence, the men held the occupants at gunpoint, tied them up and stole numerous valuables. The stolen items included a car, numerous firearms and jewelry. Once the robbers had left the home, the two victims were able to free themselves from their bindings and called 911. The two robbers, who sped from the crime scene evading officers, were later captured when Prescott Valley Police Officer Raney, off-duty, recognized the two suspects in the Prescott area.

McAlister and Wood plead guilty to Burglary in the First Degree, two counts of Armed Robbery, two counts of Aggravated Assault, Theft of Means of Transportation and Theft of the stolen items. They also plead guilty to Aggravated Assault for nearly striking a Prescott police officer who attempted to apprehend the fleeing suspects. The two men also plead guilty for Trafficking in Stolen Property for pawning some of the stolen items the next day and to the Illegal Possession of a Weapon.

McAlister is scheduled to be sentenced on September 16 in front of Yavapai County Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Brutinel at 3:30 p.m. He faces up to thirty-five years in prison. Wood Jr. will be sentenced on September 29 at 3:00 p.m. in front of Yavapai County Superior Court Judge Thomas Lindberg. He faces up to forty years in prison. Both men have criminal histories from Oklahoma.

Yavapai County Sheila Polk stated, "We are thankful for the quick-witted action of the victims, and the outstanding work of the Prescott Police Department and Prescott Valley Police Officer Raney in apprehending these dangerous men."