



Contacts:  
Linda Bowman  
Police Information Coordinator  
Grand Junction Police Department  
(970) 244-3601

November 12, 2007  
10:00 a.m.

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Two Juveniles Arrested for Burglary at Gene Taylor's** *GJPD Officers recover 31 handguns valued at over \$15,000*

(Grand Junction, CO) – Two juvenile males from Grand Junction have been arrested and remanded to the Division of Youth Corrections, in connection with an early morning burglary today at Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods store, located at 445 West Gunnison Avenue in Grand Junction. The juveniles face multiple charges for breaking in to the building, attempting to steal over multiple firearms and damaging the building. Thirty-one (31) handguns were recovered.

Broch Riddle and Evan Phillips, both 16 years of age, are charged with First Degree Burglary (3F), Theft of property valued at over \$15,000.00 (3F), Criminal Mischief for damage to property valued at over \$1,500.00 dollars (4F), Possession of Handguns by a Juvenile (2M), and Obstruction of a Peace Officer (1M). Riddle faces an additional charge of Possession of a Weapon by a previous offender (1M).

Police Chief Bill Gardner praised his team for a peaceful resolution to a situation that could have been tragic. "I am extremely proud of our night watch officers who successfully apprehended two youth bent on burglary and theft of deadly weapons. I am both chilled and grateful by the outcome. Chilled, because youth possessing handguns with armed SWAT officers searching for them could have resulted in a tragic outcome; grateful, because of the professionalism and restraint used by our fine peace officers."

On September 12<sup>th</sup> around 1:30 a.m., Grand Junction Police Officers responded to Gene Taylor's on a report of a burglary alarm. Upon arrival, patrol officers observed two male subjects attempting to leave the store and commanded them to exit the building. The males reentered the building and refused several more verbal attempts by patrol officers to exit, at which time the Grand Junction Police SWAT team responded to search the building extricate them. Riddle and Phillips were taken in to custody shortly before 6:00 a.m.

###

*(see next page for photos of recovered handguns)*

