



Salem Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arrests made in west Salem robbery

Salem, Ore. — Salem Police detectives arrested two people involved in the armed robbery of a West Salem convenience store last week. The two male suspects, identified as Aspen Hale, 21, and Dominick Howland, 21, both Dallas residents, were taken into custody after the investigation and lodged at the Polk County Jail on the charges of first-degree robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, and menacing.

On December 21, 2021 Salem patrol officers responded to the Plaid Pantry store in the 2500 block of Wallace RD on a report of a robbery. A female employee reported two suspects confronted her while outside the store at approximately 4:20 a.m. during a work break. One suspect pointed a gun at her and ordered her into the store where a second employee was working. The armed suspect held both employees at gunpoint while the second suspect stole items from the store. Both suspects then fled the scene in a vehicle.

Through the investigation, Salem Police detectives were able to link the suspects back to a car crash investigation on December 26, 2021 in which one of the vehicle occupants was found with a firearm. A subsequent search warrant on the car resulted in evidence which tied both Hale and Howland to the Plaid Pantry robbery.

Hale and Howland were apprehended at a residence in Dallas, Oregon with the assistance of the [Dallas Police Department](#) and [Polk County Sheriff's Office](#).

The case is now being handled by the Office of the [Polk County District Attorney](#) and all further media inquiries should be directed to the prosecutor's office.

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