

**59° F** Wind W at 13 MPH  
 Pressure 1009 MB  
 Partly Cloudy Dewpoint 27° F  
 Visibility 10 miles  
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## 2 men held in pawn shop robbery

By Duffy Hayes  
Saturday, March 12, 2016

Two men face aggravated robbery and assault charges in connection with a brazen theft Thursday of a gun from a pawn shop, and a violent struggle involving weapons with staff of the pawn shop.

Sean Willis, 24, allegedly asked to see a gun at First National Pawn, 2892 North Ave., Unit B, then grabbed the gun and fled from the store.

When employees chased Willis down, he reportedly struck one man in the head with the gun.

A second man, Levi VanPelt, 34, approached the fracas with a collapsible baton and a Taser, according to police.

At that point, pawn shop employees let Willis go.

Grand Junction police soon spotted the suspect's vehicle pulling into the Brass Rail bar parking lot, at 476 28 Road, where the two men entered. When more police arrived, a perimeter was set up around the bar, and Willis and VanPelt ran from the back door of the business, according to an affidavit. After a short foot chase, both men were taken into custody.

Police officers allegedly found unlawful prescription medication and methamphetamine after a search of the two, and also found another firearm, a baton, and a Taser.

VanPelt appeared Friday in District Court on charges of aggravated robbery, felony menacing, drug possession, possession of weapons by a previous offender, use of a stun gun, and obstructing police, among other charges.

Willis, who was uncooperative with police and did not appear for Friday's advisement, is accused of aggravated robbery, second-degree assault, possession of a weapon by a previous offender, criminal mischief, theft, and obstructing police.

VanPelt was issued a \$2,500 cash-only bond on Friday. Willis is set to appear for advisement on Monday

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