

Letter carrier helps thwart a robbery

By FRANCES VANDERPLOEG

Being chased down the street by a determined postal worker may not have been what four young men expected Nov. 6 during a house burglary, but when letter carrier Cindie Lindemon sensed something out of place during her daily rounds, that's exactly what happened.

Lindemon said she was dropping off mail in the Quail Ridge Estates gated community in Green Valley when she saw four men in their early 20s, three wearing backpacks, walking down the street. She has been delivering mail



Lindemon

for more than 21 years — the past 15 years in Quail Ridge — so she was pretty confident the men didn't belong in the neighborhood.

She called the security guard, she said, alerting him to the situation. He couldn't leave his post at the front gate so he sent Brendan Paul, a neighbor who happened to come through the gate at that time, to respond. By the time Paul made it to Lindemon's location, the men had made their move, she said. Three of them were inside the home while the fourth paced out front, talking on a cell phone.

Paul began talking to the man outside to try to get information while Lindemon kept an eye on the house, he said. Before long, the three men in the house ran, two of them heading in one direction, the third in another. Lindemon chased the group of two down the street, honking her horn and yelling at them to stop, she said.

"She was in full rescue mode. It was awesome," Paul said.

Police showed up minutes later and forced two men to the ground, guns drawn, Lindemon said. The third runner was captured by the police moments later.

Markus Patton, 21, Kevin Patton, 20, and Wayne Dela-

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Cindie Lindemon,
Letter carrier who spotted and helped catch prospective thieves

Cruz, 26, were being held in the Henderson Detention Center on \$36,000 bail on felony burglary charges, Henderson Police said. Isaiah Smith, 19, was being held on \$16,000 bail on a felony burglary charge.

All four were scheduled for a preliminary hearing at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 3 in Henderson Justice Court. None had attorneys on record.

Lindemon said she was in shock at what had happened, but her first instinct was to get back to work, so she continued with her deliveries.

"My priority is to deliver the mail," she said.

A little while later, she returned to the scene, where she found a large group of police and neighbors standing around. She gave police a statement.

"When I realized what I did, it was just gut-wrenching," Lindemon said. "I don't know if it was adrenaline or stupidity or both."

After her statement to police, the mail did get through. She finished the route.

Lindemon said she believes in Neighborhood Watch, but she never thought she would play such a pivotal role. In this case she felt obligated, because of her loyalty to her customers.

"These are my people," she said with a smile.

Jerry Penn, branch secretary for the local National Association of Letter Carriers, has been a longtime friend of Lindemon. After hearing the story and hearing that Lindemon was behind it, he said he wasn't surprised at all.

"She loves her customers," he said.

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