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“The defendants tried – fortunately, unsuccessfully to blow up a man in his pickup. Suffice it to say, our judgment was that this was a very serious federal offense. The Stillwell Police, ATF Special Agents, and the District Court apparently agreed.” – U.S. Attorney Sperling.

NEWS RELEASE

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MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced today that APRIL CARVER, age 33, of Stillwell, Oklahoma, was sentenced for two counts of Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, in violation of 26 U.S.C. Section 5845, and two counts of Making a Firearm, in violation of 26 U.S.C. Section 5845.

“CARVER was sentenced to 120 months imprisonment, 24 months supervised release, and ordered to pay a Special Assessment of \$400.00,” stated U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling.

“Charges arose from an investigation by the Stilwell Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF),” U.S. Attorney Sperling reported. “ATF agents received a telephone call regarding a potential destructive device located on the underside of a pickup belonging to Justin Ruben of Stilwell. Ruben was then parked at the Fiesta-Mart in Stilwell.”

“The victim was pumping gas into his truck and noticed gas running onto the ground. He checked the leak source and found a wire which had backed out of the gas tank hose. He noticed a broken light bulb attached to the wire and called the Stilwell Police Department.”

“The device was disassembled by the victim and given to the Stilwell police,” noted U.S. Attorney Sperling. “The next day, the victim was at his residence in Stilwell and, while trying to show a friend where the device had been located, found another similarly positioned device.”

“An ATF Special Agent also received a call regarding the second potential destructive device on the victim’s blue 1994 Chevy pickup. ATF Agents responded and found wires extending from the pickup starter to the inside of a rubber hose leading to the gas tank. A broken bulb with an active filament was clipped to the starter, grounded to the motor, and wired to the solenoid.”

“ATF Special Agents later obtained a search warrant for the Stilwell residence where CARVER and co-defendant GREG UNGER were living. During the search, agents located wire and electrical tape consistent with the devices located on the vehicle.”

“The investigation revealed that both CARVER and UNGER made statements of admission. They made and planted the devices on Ruben’s vehicle. The investigation also revealed that Ruben and CARVER were involved in a custody dispute. CARVER had made statements to other persons expressing her desire to have Ruben killed.”

“The destructive devices are considered “firearms” under federal law. The defendants had no legal authority to make construct the destructive devices. Neither were the devices registered with the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, as the law requires,” U.S. Attorney Sperling concluded.

“Co-defendant UNGER was previously sentenced to 121 months imprisonment and 36 months supervised release on November 7, 2007.”

“The Honorable Ronald A. White, District Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, presided over today’s sentencing. Judge White ordered the defendant remain in custody of the U.S. Marshal to begin serving her sentence. Assistant United States Attorney Christopher J. Wilson represented the government.”

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