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Weld deputies respond to shooting, arrest man on suspicion of attempted murder

A Weld County man was arrested Tuesday night after shooting a neighbor over a property dispute.

Brian Fletcher, 51, of Keenesburg, was subsequently booked into the Weld County Jail on suspicion of attempted first-degree murder, second-degree assault, menacing and possession of a weapon by a previous offender, all felonies, as well as misdemeanor charges of reckless endangerment and prohibited use of a weapon. He remains at the jail on \$150,000 bond.

The charges stem from about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday when Weld County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a report of a shooting in the 1900 block of Weld County Road 55, about five miles south of Keenesburg. The caller, Whitney Moore, 67, told dispatchers her husband, Fletcher, had just shot a man.

Moore later told deputies she and her husband had been having problems with their tenant, Richard Warsaw, 64, who lives in a trailer on their property but had stopped paying rent. Moore said she and Fletcher were filling out the required paperwork to begin the eviction process when Fletcher asked his wife he could just shoot Warsaw.

Moore told deputies her husband was agitated about an incident the day before in which he confronted Warsaw about the unpaid rent while armed with a revolver. Fletcher pointed the weapon at Warsaw from a distance of about two feet. Warsaw simply slapped the gun away.

About 3 p.m. Tuesday, Fletcher left the house. When he returned about 15 minutes later, he told Moore to call 911 because he had just shot a man while doing target practice.

Warsaw told deputies a different story, saying he was working on his trailer when Fletcher exited the house, pointed the revolver at him, told him to get off the property and then started firing. Warsaw ran, taking cover behind a Conex-style storage container.

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Inside the storage container was Roger Skeers, 55, a friend of Warsaw's. He told deputies when the shooting started, he saw Warsaw run past the doors of the Conex box. Skeers walked toward the opening to see if he should run too when a bullet ricocheted off one of the doors and struck him in the abdomen. The bullet didn't penetrate the skin and Skeers sustained only minor injuries.

After deputies arrived at the scene, and following an evaluation by medical personnel, Warsaw found the bullet that struck his friend lying on the ground. He picked it up and handed it to a deputy to secure as evidence.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff's Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**. **Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at www.crimeshurt.com. Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.**

Steve Reams – Sheriff