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## Investigation continues in Helmer-area shooting

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By David Johnson of the Tribune

MOSCOW - The two juveniles charged with shooting at moving vehicles Friday near Helmer could be placed in the custody of the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections until their 19th birthdays, according to state law.

Austin Blake Medlock and Austin James Rickert, both 14, were released into the custody of their parents Monday after being charged with two felony counts each of unlawful discharge of a firearm at a vehicle.

Authorities, meanwhile, are asking that anyone who believes they may have been a victim of the shooting incident to contact the Latah County Sheriff's Office. Prosecutor William Thompson Jr. wrote in a news release that investigators are seeking the identity of as many victims as possible so appropriate charging decisions can be made prior to a scheduled Feb. 3 hearing.

The incident resulted in closure of State Highway 8 near Helmer Friday afternoon while authorities investigated multiple reports of vehicles, including trucks and cars, being hit by bullets and, in at least one case, an arrow fired from a crossbow.

The boys were taken into custody after sheriff's deputies found, among other evidence, numerous .22-caliber casings strewn upon and around a wooden tri-level fort located adjacent to the highway.

Normally in juvenile cases, names of alleged suspects are withheld and court files are sealed. But Magistrate John Judge of Moscow, citing the public nature of the event, ordered the files, including the identity of the suspects, opened to the public.

Adults charged with the same felony would face up to 15 years in prison on each count, according to Idaho law.

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