

BREMERTON ASSAULT SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

Acting on, quite literally, dozens of informational tips from concerned citizens, Kitsap County Sheriff's Detectives have taken a 29 year old male into custody for the brutal assault which occurred Thursday, Jan. 16, 2003, at a residence on NE 30th Street in East Bremerton.

The suspect is being held at the Kitsap County Jail where he has been initially booked for: Rape in the first degree (2 counts), Burglary in the first degree (1 count), Assault in the first degree (2 counts) and Unlawful Imprisonment (2 counts). Bail has been set at one million dollars.

Pending formal charging in Kitsap County Superior Court, further identifying information about the alleged offender, including a photograph, will not be made public.

The victims and their family members have been notified of the apprehension and have had an opportunity to meet with the Sheriff and detectives assigned to the case. Their attorney is representing the family.

"The victims were able to provide a very accurate description of the suspect which was instrumental in identifying him," said Sheriff Steve Boyer.

Several key tips were received by the Sheriff's Office yesterday (Monday, Jan. 20) and today concerning the person in custody. The information was reviewed and prioritized by detectives as the search escalated. At approximately 3 p.m. this afternoon, detectives made contact with the suspect as part of the overall follow-up effort to various citizen tips.

"I am quite confident that the man we presently have in custody is the person responsible for the assaults against these young people," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "For the past six days, almost our entire investigative effort has been directed at bringing this incident to its rightful conclusion – with a suspect identified and arrested. This was our number one priority."

"I would like to add that the apprehension of the perpetrator was a total team effort of coordination and cooperation on the part of a wide variety of entities:

- (1) The citizens of Kitsap County for their observations, information and concerns.

- (2) The local and regional media for their assistance in publishing the suspect composite and details of the assault.
- (3) Our Sheriff's corrections staff who poured over hundreds of booking photographs in order to match a photograph to the composite drawing.
- (4) Sheriff's detectives and patrol deputies who followed-up on each and every citizen tip received, from the serious and possible to the seemingly outlandish.

Arraignment of the suspect is expected to occur at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Further information: Deputy Scott Wilson, #125, Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer, 337-5642, 297-3060, 710-0773

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