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Central Kitsap man victim of kidnapping and assault

Navy Yard City, Bremerton, Wash. – One man is in custody, and others are being sought, following the apparent abduction and assault of a 19 year-old Silverdale man last week in Navy Yard City.

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to a 9-1-1 report of the alleged abduction near the intersection of Arsenal Way and West Loxie Eagans Blvd., around 8:00 p.m. Wed., March 23, just outside the Bremerton city limits.

A 20 year-old girlfriend of the victim reported to deputies that her boyfriend had been assaulted and forced into a white-colored sport utility vehicle by a group of black males. The SUV sped away from the scene. The woman described the SUV as being a Ford Expedition with California license plates.

The girlfriend further recounted how some of the same persons involved in the abduction had earlier shown-up at a residence where she was visiting, looking for her boyfriend. The woman denied knowing her boyfriend's whereabouts. The white SUV was seen in the general area several times during by witnesses.

The identities of the persons involved in the abduction were apparently known to the girlfriend.

Sheriff's detectives were notified and responded to further investigate the allegation of kidnapping and the possibility of a homicide. The investigation continued into the late night and early morning hours.

At about the same time as the abduction was being reported, a resident of Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor was contacting military authorities to report the theft of her personally owned SUV, a white-colored 1998 Ford Expedition with a California registration. This report eventually ended-up as a civil dispute rather than a vehicle theft. However, just before 3:00 a.m., a Sheriff's detective observed this SUV entering northbound State Highway 3 from the Kitsap Way (Bremerton) freeway on-ramp. With assistance from marked Sheriff's patrol units, the Ford Expedition was stopped near the Anderson Hill Road overpass and the occupants detained.

Further investigation revealed that the 23 year-old female driver had “borrowed” the Ford Expedition from an acquaintance’s residence on Bangor, without the owner’s specific permission. The female drove to the West Park area of Bremerton and, while there, she “loaned” the SUV to one of the subjects identified as possibly being involved in the abduction. The alleged suspect had possession of the Ford Expedition for several hours and later returned the SUV to the female driver. The vehicle was impounded by Sheriff’s detectives as evidence, since it was a part of a mobile crime scene. Detectives determined that the female driver and her male passenger were not directly involved in the abduction. They were transported off of the freeway and released.

Sheriff’s detectives developed probable cause for the arrest of at least two persons believed to have perpetrated the abduction. “Wanted” flyers on the two suspects were printed and distributed to local county law enforcement agencies.

As the investigation progressed, Sheriff’s detectives developed intelligence as to the whereabouts of the kidnap victim. He was subsequently found by a Sheriff’s patrol deputy at a residence in the 3000 block of Morgan Lane, Bremerton, during the late evening hours of Friday, March 25. He displayed injuries ostensibly sustained during his abduction and afterwards. He was treated by medics from Bremerton Fire Department.

During a victim’s interview, the 19 year-old man would provide only minimal information concerning his ordeal and would not relate any details concerning a motive for the abduction or the identities of his abductors. He was subsequently arrested and booked into jail on an outstanding warrant of arrest for escape from community custody, issued by the Washington State Department of Corrections. He was released from custody this morning.

While Sheriff’s deputies were dealing with the alleged victim, officers from Bremerton Police Department had developed leads concerning the possible whereabouts of one of the kidnapping suspects. After coordination with the on-duty Sheriff’s shift sergeant, Bremerton PD officers made contact with Craig Allen Valentine, 44, at a residence in the 2700 block of Maple Street, Bremerton. He was taken into custody, without incident, and subsequently turned over to Sheriff’s patrol deputies.

Valentine was booked into jail on a charge of kidnapping, 2nd degree, with bail set at \$75,000. Valentine will make an appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow (Wed., March 30).

The investigation continues. The Sheriff’s Office believes that a number of motorists in the vicinity of Arsenal Way and Loxie Eagans Blvd., around 8:00 p.m. March 23, may have witnessed the assault and abduction. Those with information about this crime are asked to contact Sheriff’s Detective Mike Rodrigue at (360) 337-4479. Persons who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.

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