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Joint News Release: Bremerton Police Department and Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

Two in custody following SWAT deployment

Bremerton, Wash. – A domestic couple, believed responsible for a string of armed robberies in Kitsap County and the City of Bremerton over the past two weeks, are now in custody following the execution of a search warrant in a downtown Bremerton apartment building.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Regional SWAT Team entered the two-story structure after the 36 year-old female ran from her vehicle in an alley behind the apartment building. Sheriff's detectives had attempted a traffic stop of the woman's vehicle when they saw her leave the building.

There were no injuries reported during the warrant service and ensuing arrests.

The woman and her 32 year-old boyfriend were found inside the Sister-to-Sister Hair Salon at 540 4th Street, Bremerton. The hair salon occupies a space on the lower level of the apartment structure. The suspect's apartment is located behind the hair salon with its entrance from the alley. Also with the couple was their infant child, believed to be less than one year old. The child has been temporarily placed into the care of Child Protective Services.

Bremerton Police and Sheriff's Office detectives have been coordinating their investigative efforts concerning a spate of armed robberies that crossed law enforcement jurisdictional boundaries throughout the county:

- (1) May 11, 5:50 p.m.: a tanning salon within the city limits of Poulsbo.
- (2) May 18, 1:14 p.m.: an electronics store off NE State Highway 104, Kingston, North Kitsap.
- (3) May 19, 5:50 a.m.: an espresso / coffee stand on SE Sedgwick Road, South Kitsap.
- (4) May 19, 10:40 a.m.: a sandwich shop / restaurant on Wheaton Way, Bremerton.
- (5) May 19, 8:45 p.m.: a clothing store in Kitsap Mall, Silverdale, Central Kitsap.
- (6) May 19, 9:30 p.m.: a hotel on Kitsap Way, Bremerton.
- (7) May 22, 8:50 p.m.: a motel on 11th Street, Bremerton.

Information developed by detectives from both agencies led them to the female suspect and, subsequently, to her boyfriend. Investigators believe that both are responsible for committing robberies although only one suspect entered the business premises during each crime.

Sheriff's and Bremerton Police detectives began a surveillance of the suspect's building this afternoon while investigators sought a search warrant for their apartment.

During their surveillance detectives observed the female exit the building and drive away. Detectives then attempted to initiate a vehicle traffic stop at 2:40 p.m. The woman circled the block, returned to the alley, struck a utility pole, bailed out of her car and ran back into her apartment building.

Rather than risk entry into an unknown building, chasing a suspect believed to be armed, containment was established, the surrounding area cordoned-off and the SWAT Team responded. The building was cleared of other dwellers. The suspects were eventually located hiding in the hair salon and taken into custody at 4:46 p.m. One occupant later told detectives that the suspects had knocked on his door demanding that he allow them to hide in his apartment. When he refused entry, the two burglarized the apartment across the hallway in their attempt to keep from being found.

"It didn't go exactly as planned initially, but the end result was successful," said Bremerton Detective Sgt. Kevin Crane. "The on-scene detectives, together with responding patrol officers and deputies, adapted to fast changing circumstances to protect others in the building, nearby business establishments and passing motorists and pedestrians."

Both suspects were transported and booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of:

Female: robbery, 1st degree; robbery, 2nd degree and burglary, 2nd degree. Bail was set initially at \$500,000.

Male: robbery, 1st degree and also on an outstanding warrant of arrest issued by the Washington State Department of Corrections for escape from community custody, following a previous conviction of robbery, 1st degree. Bail was set initially at \$500,000.

Both suspects will make their initial appearance tomorrow (Tuesday, May 24) at 3:00 p.m. in Kitsap County Superior Court.

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