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Suspect in multiple burglaries now in custody; investigation continues

Port Orchard, Wash. – A 21 year-old Seabeck man is presently in custody as a suspect in a number of burglaries in the Central Kitsap area.

Aaron Guster Cloud was arrested in Poulsbo during the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 1, by officers of the Poulsbo Police Department, and booked into Kitsap County Jail on a number of burglary and robbery charges stemming from an investigation in that jurisdiction.

Once in-custody, Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives continued with their investigations into at least three burglaries that occurred between Sept. 21 and Sept 26: two residential burglaries where an occupant was at home during the commission of the crime, and a third to an unoccupied commercial business. Cloud is a primary suspect in these cases.

(1) On Monday, Sept. 12, an 18 year-old woman was in her East Bremerton home by herself when she was awakened by the sound of doors and drawers being opened and closed in another part of the residence. The victim locked herself in her bedroom and telephoned 911; Sheriff's deputies responded to a burglary in progress.

When responding deputies arrived, the suspect(s) had already fled. Taken during the burglary was a large amount of jewelry and car audio equipment.

Cloud's vehicle was observed by neighborhood witnesses leaving the scene at a high rate of speed. One of the responding deputies also noted Cloud's vehicle leaving the general area and recognized it as the suspect vehicle in an earlier theft of fuel complaint from a service station. However at the time of the 911 call, the victim did not provide a description of the burglary suspect's vehicle. The deputy handled the in-progress burglary call as higher priority and did not stop Cloud at that moment.

Cloud was contacted about the gas theft the next day; he was arrested, booked into jail for third degree theft, and released on personal recognizance. At the time, the connection between Cloud and the in-progress burglary had not been made.

(2) On Wednesday, Sept. 21, Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred in Navy Yard City, Central Kitsap (outside the Bremerton city limits).

The victim, a 39 year-old woman, called 911 after being confronted inside of her second floor apartment by an adult male with a butcher knife. The suspect forced the victim into a bathroom and demanded to know the location of the woman's safe. When the victim denied the existence of a safe the suspect fled. Nothing appeared to have been taken during the commission of this crime.

(3) During the morning hours of Monday, Sept. 26, Sheriff's deputies began to handle complaint reports of burglaries to commercial businesses in the Old Towne area of Silverdale, Central Kitsap.

The owner of a business in the 3000 block of NW Byron Street arrived to open and found her briefcase lying outside of the building on a deck. Upon entering she found that an inside door from an adjacent business had been forced open. During the course of this investigation it was discovered that the adjacent business, a hair salon, had been forcefully entered.

Taken during the course of this burglary was a laptop computer.

Cloud is currently being held in custody in the Kitsap County Jail on charges of burglary, 2nd degree and residential burglary, stemming from his arrest by Poulsbo Police. His bail amount is presently set at \$55,000.

Sheriff's detectives continue their investigation into the Central Kitsap burglaries. Cloud has not yet been charged in connection with the Sheriff's Office investigation.

Anyone with information concerning these crimes is asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619 or Detective Lori Blankenship at (360) 337-5615. Additionally, Sheriff's detectives are also interested in speaking with Ileen Cloud, age 45, also of Seabeck. Ileen is the mother of Aaron Cloud.

Detectives believe that Ms. Cloud has information pertinent to this investigation. She has been avoiding contact with investigators.

Persons with information about this investigation who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.

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Aaron Guster Cloud

Date of photograph: 10/01/2005