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For Immediate Release:
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Saturday, July 15, 2006

Central Kitsap bank robber arrested

Ref: KCSO news release #06-032 of Friday, July 14, 2006

East Bremerton, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives had a 49 year-old transient man in-custody within five hours -- almost to the minute -- following a late afternoon robbery, yesterday, of an East Bremerton branch of the Bank of America.

Detectives and uniformed patrol deputies arrested the suspect at 9:30 p.m. last night at his camper truck that was parked on a residential side street off of NE Sylvan Way, East Bremerton. The man was taken into custody without incident. The suspect had a significant amount of the bank's money in his possession at the time of his arrest.

The suspect is cooperating with Sheriff's detectives in the investigation. He was later booked into Kitsap County Jail on a charge of robbery, 2nd degree. Bail was set at \$250,000.

The robbery occurred just after 4:30 p.m. at the Bank of America branch located in the Redwood Plaza Shopping Center at the corner of NE Riddell Road and State Route 303 NE. The suspect entered the bank, presented a note to a teller demanding money, then left the bank on foot.

Evidence obtained at the scene, together with witness statements, provided detectives with enough initial information to identify the suspect.

Detectives determined that the suspect had been staying at a campground in Illahee State Park in East Bremerton, and learned that state park rangers had responded to a disturbance in the park during the late evening hours of Thursday, July 13.

During the course of their investigation park rangers arrested a 36 year-old woman on an outstanding felony warrant of arrest for theft, issued out of Kitsap County Superior Court. The arrested woman is the wife of the bank robbery suspect. She was booked into jail on the warrant at 11:45 p.m. Thursday night. Park rangers ordered the suspect to leave Illahee State Park. The suspect drove his camper truck out of the campground and parked it on a residential side street close to the park's entrance.

Following the bank robbery, the suspect utilized the assistance of a third party female acquaintance to use some of the bank money obtained during the robbery to post bail for his wife. She was released from jail at 7:40 p.m. last night.

Sheriff's detectives were not far behind the suspect as their investigation continued. Realizing that the suspect would eventually return for his truck, the vehicle was placed under surveillance. When the suspect returned to the camper, he was arrested.

The man's wife, and the woman who posted her bail, were questioned and released.

The suspect will make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m., Monday, July 17.

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