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For immediate release:
KCSO news release #07-017 / 125

Monday, June 4, 2007

Attempted luring of elementary school student

East Bremerton, Wash. – An 11 year-old elementary school student is safe and unharmed because she followed instructions regarding contact by strangers.

The girl, a student at Cottonwood Elementary School in East Bremerton, was accosted by an adult male around 8:40 a.m. this morning while she was walking to school.

The girl ran from the man and, upon reaching school, immediately informed school administrators. Kitsap County Sheriff's patrol deputies responded and searched the area. The man was not located.

Suspect description: white male, approximately 6'00" tall, thin, between 20 – 30 years of age, with brown-colored eyes, no facial hair and no eye glasses.

He was reported to be wearing a black knit "beanie" hat, a long tan coat with large collars (collars were turned up) and a black belt with a buckle design similar to a skull.

According to the student she left her residence and was approaching a pathway north of the school when the man appeared from behind some bushes located at a residence next to the path.

The man asked the girl if he could walk her to school. The girl replied "No," and went to leave. The suspect attempted to grab the girl's backpack but she eluded his grasp and ran. The man started to follow the girl but then stopped. He yelled at her saying, "You can pay me with sex!"

Contact was made with the occupants of several residences in the area; no one reported anything suspicious.

This incident follows one that occurred on May 3, where three students, ages 9, 10 & 11, were walking to Cottonwood Elementary School when they reported seeing an adult black male on a walking path who exposed himself to the children. In that instance there was no luring attempt or any type of verbal exchange reported. The students reported the incident immediately upon arriving at school.

Sheriff's deputies are increasing patrols in areas adjoining the school during student transit periods.

Both incidents remain under investigation.

Persons who may have information concerning suspicious activity related to these incidents are asked to contact the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office at 360-337-7101 or call 9-1-1. Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.

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