



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Teamwork and timing result in robbery suspect arrest

East Bremerton, Wash. -- A 24 year-old transient has found a temporary residence in the Kitsap County Jail following his arrest last night for armed robbery.

Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a 9-1-1 broadcast of an armed robbery that just occurred at an automated teller machine (ATM) located at the Bank of America branch in the Redwood Plaza in East Bremerton.

The robbery occurred at 9:02 p.m.

The victim, a 43 year-old East Bremerton woman, reported that as she started to use the ATM she was approached by a man who displayed a handgun tucked into the waistband of his pants. He withdrew the weapon momentarily then replaced it back into his waistband. He did not point the weapon at the victim.

The victim stepped back and the suspect stepped up to the ATM, used the account balance inquiry feature to determine the amount of money in the victim's account, and then withdrew cash. He immediately fled the scene on foot across the parking area of Redwood Plaza and across NE Riddell Road.

The victim provided a detailed description of the suspect: white male, early twenties in age, thin build, about 5' 05" tall. He was wearing a brown-colored hooded sweatshirt with the hood pulled up, light colored jeans, black gloves, sunglasses and a cloth mask that covered his lower face. She described the weapon that the suspect displayed as a large sized semi-automatic handgun, black in color.

A witness to the incident was able to provide deputies with a vehicle description as it left an adjacent parking lot across the road where the suspect had fled on foot: a red-colored Ford Mustang with a loud exhaust and without its headlamps illuminated. This witness followed the Mustang for some distance and was able to obtain a license plate number. The license returned to a 1997 Ford Mustang with a registration address at an apartment complex on Parkside Drive in Bremerton.

This information was provided to patrol officers with Bremerton Police Department who went to the Parkside Drive address at 9:15 p.m. Immediately upon arrival Bremerton PD officers located the red-colored Ford Mustang. They found and detained a man who matched the description of the suspect.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the Parkside Drive location and continued their investigation.

Another witness reported to deputies that, while in his apartment, he heard and then observed the Ford Mustang return to the parking lot. Shortly afterwards he observed a man (the detained subject) leave the area of the parked Mustang and walk over to another parked vehicle, a 1988 Mazda RX-7, and place something that was dark-colored and wrapped up in a bundle into the driver's side of the Mazda.

A registration check of the Mazda returned that it was owned by the same individual who owned the Ford Mustang.

The detained subject was formally placed into custody. At the time of his arrest this person was in possession of the exact amount of money as that taken from the victim's bank account. The monetary denominations were consistent with bills normally dispensed via an ATM.

The suspect admitted to knowing the registered owner (RO) of the Ford Mustang. The RO of the Mustang and the Mazda RX-7 is a 23 year-old East Bremerton man who lives in the apartment complex where the vehicles were located. The RO was not on-scene and is not a suspect in this investigation.

Sheriff's deputies were granted a search warrant for both vehicles.

Inside the Ford Mustang deputies recovered a gray-colored ski-type mask that covers most of a person's face when worn. Also found inside the Mustang were containers of pellets and CO2 cartridges used for pellet guns.

Upon searching the Mazda RX-7 deputies found a compartment behind the driver's seat that contained a brown-colored hooded sweatshirt, two pellet handguns -- one black and the other silver & black -- and a pair of black gloves.

The suspect stated that he was recently discharged from the U. S. Navy and was staying at various locations in the area, as a transient. He listed Wartburg, Tennessee, as his home of record. He declined any involvement in the robbery.

The suspect was transported to jail and booked for robbery, 1st degree. His bail was set at \$250,000.

He is scheduled to make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

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