



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

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Chief of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Officer Thomas N. O'Neal
Report Number: FG1701608
Date / Time Incident: November 23, 2017 / 3:00 a.m.
Location of Incident: 421 South Street
Crime or Incident: 243(d) PC (Assault with Great Bodily Injury), 368 PC (Elder Abuse)
Victim(s): Name Withheld (68 years old, Fort Bragg)
Suspect(s): Joseph Drew Wooden (31 years old, Fort Bragg)

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On November 23, 2017, at approximately 12:17 p.m., Officers from the Fort Bragg Police Department were dispatched to 421 South Street for the report of a victim of an assault. Officers contacted the victim (name withheld), who advised she had been assaulted earlier that morning and was now having problems breathing. An ambulance was requested and the victim was transported to the Mendocino Coast District Hospital Emergency Room for medical treatment.

During the course of the investigation, Officers discovered that the victim had been previously allowing the suspect, Joseph Wooden, to stay at her residence for several days due to him being homeless. On November 23, 2017, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Wooden returned to the victim's residence uninvited. While the victim was attempting to remove Wooden from her residence, Wooden assaulted her by shoving her into a door and wall. The assault caused the victim to sustain injuries which later resulted in the victim having difficulty breathing.

Following the report of the assault, Officers issued a Be On The Lookout (BOLO) for Wooden, including an order of arrest. Officers continued to check the area for the suspect throughout the day and at approximately 4:04 p.m., located Wooden in the alley east of the 100 Block of N. Corry Street. Wooden was arrested without incident and a search, incident to arrest, of Wooden's property led to the discovery of a methamphetamine glass pipe. Wooden was transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he is awaiting arraignment.

If anyone has any information related to this investigation they are encouraged to contact Officer Wesley Rafanan at 707-961-2800 ext.140.

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