



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Lt John Naulty
Report Number: FG1201246
Date / Time Incident: August 26, 2012, 7:50 a.m.
Location of Incident: 1004 S Main St. Fort Bragg
Crime or Incident: Kidnapping, Carjacking, Vehicle Theft, Possession of Stolen Property
Victim: 14 year old Female, Oregon
Suspect: Jesse Wayne Bacon, 51 Years Old, Willits

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On Sunday August 26, 2012, at approximately 7:50 a.m. Fort Bragg Police Officers were dispatched to a vehicle that had just been reported stolen from the Circle K gas station, 1004 S Main St. A white male suspect wearing a red bandana had just stolen a vehicle from the location. It was then learned that a 14 year old female juvenile was still asleep inside the vehicle when it was stolen. The victim's vehicle was described as a gold sport utility vehicle with Oregon plates.

Responding Officers to the area observed the victim's stolen vehicle traveling northbound in the 500 block of S Main St. When the officers turned around to follow the vehicle the suspect attempted to evade Officers by pulling into a driveway, losing control and crashing into a hedge located at 528 S Main St. The suspect, identified as Jesse Wayne Bacon, 51 years old from Willits, attempted to flee from the vehicle but was quickly apprehended by officers.

It was determined the female juvenile was not in the vehicle when the suspect crashed. Fearing for the safety of the female juvenile the Officers immediately focused their investigation on locating her. The investigation revealed the female juvenile victim had been dropped off near McDonalds on S Main St. soon after Bacon discovered she was in the vehicle. Officers responded to the area and located the juvenile victim. Officers determined no harm had come to her. The victim positively identified Bacon as the suspect that had kidnapped, carjacked her family's car at the Circle K gas station. The victim was re-united with her family.

Officers, after the arrest of Bacon, realized that he was a person of interest from several car burglaries which had occurred Saturday, August 25th in the 400 block of N. Main St. Several witnesses observed Bacon taking items from vehicles in a private business parking lot. One person was able to obtain a cell phone photo of Bacon and the vehicle he was driving. Fort Bragg Police later located the vehicle Bacon was driving abandoned within the city. Inside the vehicle officers noted Bacon had left behind his identification, prescription and dog. Officers recovered stolen property taken from the car thefts that had just been reported. Other stolen items from the Fort Bragg Coast, Willits, and Lake County were seized from Bacon's vehicle. The vehicle Bacon was driving is registered to a female from Willits.

Further evidence located in the truck linked Bacon and another identified male suspect to stolen checks taken from a local business in Fort Bragg and cashed at a bank earlier in the week. Bacon is also associated with an adult female from Willits who is being sought for her role in these thefts. Fort Bragg Police Department is continuing to follow-up on Bacon's associates and identify owners of stolen property. Bacon and his associates have been in the Fort Bragg area for a couple of weeks and have been staying at MacKerricher State Park. California State Park Officers have been notified and are assisting in this investigation.

Bacon is charged with 215 PC Car Jacking, 10851 VC stolen vehicle, 207 PC Kidnapping, 496 PC Possession of stolen property, various narcotic violations, and possible additional charges after the follow-up investigation is completed.

Fort Bragg Police Department credits this arrest to the alert witnesses who reported the activity last evening, and the alert Fort Bragg Police officers who had vague information of the stolen vehicle when they were responding to the area.

END