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## Wanted man apprehended after lengthy chase

**South Kitsap, Wash.** -- It began as a chance encounter as sheriff's deputies and detectives responded to assist a Washington State Patrol trooper on a traffic stop in the 11300 block of SE Sedgwick Road in South Kitsap. It culminated some three and a half hours later, with the apprehension of a 24 year-old South Kitsap man after police foot pursuits, containment, a K-9 track and airborne surveillance.

When arriving in the area to back-up the trooper, a deputy recognized a 24 year-old South Kitsap man, also in the vicinity, whom he believed had outstanding felony warrants for his arrest.

A radio request was made to a third deputy to make contact with this subject to verify suspicions. Those suspicions were confirmed almost immediately. As a traffic deputy went to speak with the man he took off, on foot, onto the grounds of John Sedgwick Junior High School, located at 8995 SE Sedgwick Road. The deputy gave chase on foot as the suspect disappeared into a tree line. This action was observed by the principal and, although the academic day was finished and most students had already left, those remaining behind for after school activities were ordered to remain inside.

The suspect, Joseph Phillip Andrew Gavin, had two outstanding felony warrants of arrest: (1) a **no bail** warrant issued by Washington State Department of Corrections for escape from community custody and (2) a Kitsap County Superior Court warrant for possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, bail: \$20,000.

Other schools located in the general area, South Colby and Manchester Elementary Schools, also went into lockdown as precautionary measures. Manchester detained its students on school district buses for a short period and then released the buses to their scheduled routes. South Colby remained on lockdown for almost two and a half hours more.

The incident started at 2:54 p.m. and encompassed the general area west of Colby Bay to Yukon Harbor, and north from Sedgwick Road to South Colby, locations that are heavily wooded and contain steep hills, creeks, ravines, wetlands and a lagoon. It ended on a trail in the 3100 block of Locker Road SE when an observant homeowner, aware of the manhunt, reported to 9-1-1 that he had confronted the suspect in a field on his property. Gavin was apprehended at 6:29 p.m., clad in his underwear.

Several times during the pursuit Gavin was seen by officers and deputies and verbally ordered to stop running and surrender, which the suspect disregarded. In one instance, up to his chest in water, Gavin replied to a deputy, "I'm not going back!" As time progressed, Gavin was observed with less clothing, as he discarded various items of apparel as they became wet and muddy.

John Sedgwick Junior High School was advised that the school could release remaining students to head home at 4:12 p.m. At 5:24 p.m. South Colby Elementary School was advised that students could be released to their parents at the school, as deputies were concerned for the safety of students leaving the school on foot, since the search for the suspect was still active in the area.

In an incident related to the hunt for Gavin, a 23 year-old South Kitsap man was taken into custody for obstructing law enforcement efforts during the search. This person, who told officers that he was a friend of Gavin's, was warned by deputies to remain out of the wooded areas where the search was concentrated. The man returned to the woods. A news helicopter was overhead assisting deputies with aerial surveillance by providing directions towards (what the flight crew believed was) the suspect's location. Instead of locating Gavin, however, searching officers were directed to this second person. He was transported and booked into jail for obstructing, with bail set at \$5,000. During the arrest process the man's mother, age 46, arrived on scene and was detained briefly when she began interceding in the arrest process of her son. She was released after about 10 minutes.

Following apprehension, Gavin was examined by medics from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, and then transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, for further evaluation and treatment. Upon discharge from the emergency room, Gavin was transported and booked into jail on the two outstanding warrants, plus an additional charge of resisting arrest, with bail set at \$5,000.

More than a dozen sightings of Gavin, on the run, were called into 9-1-1 by property owners which assisted the sheriff's office and the many other law enforcement and civilian agencies on hand for the search: Washington State Patrol (District 8 and Aviation Section); Bremerton, Port Orchard and Poulsbo Police Departments, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and **Sky KING**, the airborne news helicopter of KING 5 Television, Seattle.

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