



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

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Team effort prevents possible injuries & damage while two felons are apprehended

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A mid-morning hunt, earlier today, to arrest a wanted felon resulted in a vehicle pursuit, foot chase and quick thinking action by a sheriff's deputy to prevent the suspects' vehicle from careening over an embankment into a theater parking area.

Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies had probable cause to arrest William S. Herdman, age 28, of Port Orchard, for failure to appear for commitment following a Kitsap County Superior Court conviction for possession of methamphetamine. Herdman had been sentenced to 22 months in prison within the Washington State Department of Corrections and was scheduled to report on Aug. 26 to begin his sentence. Herdman never reported to jail. Herdman also had additional misdemeanor warrants for his arrest.

Deputies developed information that Herdman was staying at a residence in the 1300 block of Russell Avenue SE, South Kitsap, outside the limits of the City of Port Orchard. As deputies set containment in the neighborhood, Herdman was observed leaving the area driving a black-colored 2001 Infiniti QX4, a mid-size 4-door sport utility vehicle.

Deputies attempted to conduct a vehicle traffic stop, signaling the SUV with emergency lights and sirens. Herdman fled in the vehicle until he came to a roadway's dead end on SE Lovell Street. Herdman jumped from the moving Infinity as he drove the vehicle into the side yard of a private residence. The suspect fled westbound on foot while the Infinity kept rolling towards an embankment that drops off approximately 20 to 30 feet below to the parking area of the South Sound Cinemas.

A sheriff's deputy used his patrol vehicle to stop the Infinity's forward momentum and to keep it from dropping over the embankment to the parking lot below. A passenger in the SUV, a 23 year-old Port Orchard man, had made no attempt to exit the runaway vehicle while it continued rolling towards the embankment edge. The passenger was subsequently detained.

In the meantime Herdman had fled on foot down the embankment, through the theater parking area, and across SE Mile Hill Drive into a wooded area surrounding Peysano Lane SE. Containment deputies chased Herdman down on foot and arrested him at gunpoint. The suspect was evaluated and treated by medics from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue for minor injuries sustained as he ran through heavy brush.

A search of Herdman's vehicle revealed a loaded .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun in a holster that was positioned between the driver's seat and the center console of the Infinity. Also found were two, large, open-blade knives on the driver's and front passenger's floorboards.

In addition to the weapons, deputies also found suspected methamphetamine, suspected marijuana, suspected liquid steroids and suspected ecstasy (MDMA).

Herdman was transported and booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of:

- Unlawful possession of a controlled substance: methamphetamine.
- Unlawful possession of a firearm.
- Felony eluding of a pursuing police vehicle.

Bail was set at \$100,000.

The passenger, also a convicted felon, was booked into jail for unlawful possession of a firearm, with bail set at \$10,000.

"Training, teamwork, sound tactical decisions and the ability to think and react to fast changing circumstances prevented this situation from causing serious injuries, property damage or worse," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "I am very proud of the work performed by all of our deputies and corrections officers, every day, to keep our communities safe."

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