



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

For immediate release:
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Central Kitsap espresso robber in custody

Silverdale, Wash. -- A Seabeck man is now in custody, awaiting charging / arraignment, following a robbery and an attempted robbery yesterday afternoon of two espresso stands in East Bremerton.

The suspect has been identified as Michael Darren Wandke, age 46.

During the course of the investigation sheriff's detectives developed probable cause to charge Wandke with two additional espresso stand robberies that occurred earlier in the month (four total).

Chronology:

(1) Location: Express Espresso, 3082 NW Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale.

Time & date: 5:55 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 16.

Suspect: A white male, described as having blue-colored eyes and wearing a mask over his face with glasses, a green-colored jacket with a hood, and carrying a green-colored bag.

He ordered the barista to place money into the green bag. The suspect also took the barista's cell phone prior to leaving. The suspect fled on foot with the money.

A K-9 track was initiated that ended on the west side of 3100 NW Bucklin Hill Road. During the track deputies found the barista's cell phone.

(2) Location: All Star Espresso, 10710 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale.

Time & date: 6:55 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 21.

Suspect: a white male wearing a baseball hat, a black or blue-colored bandanna over his face, a maroon-colored pull-over shirt and eye glasses, robbed the espresso stand of cash.

The suspect implied that he had a weapon and he ordered the barista to place money into a green-colored bag. The suspect also was carrying a yellow-colored plastic bag.

The suspect fled on foot with the money. A K-9 track was unsuccessful.

(3) Location: Life`s A Grind Espresso, 4906 State Highway 303 NE, East Bremerton.

Time & date: 3:52 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28.

Suspect: a white male wearing a green-colored jacket, a fake beard, a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt and a baseball hat, tapped on the window of the business and implied that he had a weapon.

The suspect demanded money. The barista told him no and said that she was calling the police. The Barista then locked herself inside a restroom.

The suspect fled the scene on foot.

(4) Location: Café Perfetto, 2811 Wheaton Way, East Bremerton.

Time & date: 4:10 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 28.

Suspect: a white male wearing a red-colored baseball hat, a black-colored bandanna over his face and a grey-colored sweatshirt, robbed the espresso stand of cash.

The suspect displayed a handgun and handed a green-colored plastic bag to the barista.

Cash was placed into the bag as well as a cell phone belonging to the barista.

The suspect fled the scene.

A witness observed the suspect get into a black-colored 2001 Dodge 1500 truck. The residence of the registered owner of the truck returned to an address in Seabeck.

At approximately 4:34 p.m. Kitsap County Central Communications (9-1-1 dispatch) broadcast to Kitsap County Sheriff and Bremerton Police units that an off-duty Bremerton police officer had observed the suspect's vehicle in Silverdale.

The off-duty officer was trailing the suspect's truck.

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to the area and joined-up with an off-duty Bremerton police captain on NW Bison Lane, off of Old Frontier Road NW, west of Silverdale.

The off-duty police captain had the suspect's truck stopped and the driver at gun point. The driver was removed from the vehicle and placed into custody. Sheriff's detectives also responded to the scene.

The suspect was identified as Wandke.

The subsequent follow-up investigation included a search of the Wandke's truck and obtaining of evidence that allowed detectives to proceed with probable cause that Wandke was responsible for three robberies and one attempted robbery of the four espresso business establishments (listed above).

Wandke was transported and booked into jail on four counts of robbery, 1st degree. Bail was set initially at \$400,000.

During a preliminary hearing this afternoon in Kitsap County District Court, Wandke was remanded into custody, pending release on bail. Bail amount was set at \$100,000.

Wandke's next court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 19.

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