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# BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## BPD Weekly Update

### Let it go Mike. Let it go.

It's a little sad actually. In a scene reminiscent of Uncle Rico attempting to relive his high school glory days, former K-9 handler Lt. Mike Davis wants one more chance to chase bad guys. He's proposed the cockamamie idea that he be allowed to develop a police alligator program to track criminals who run into swampy areas where police dogs can't follow. I don't have the heart to tell him what I think of the idea.

Seriously though, many thanks to Scott Peterson (aka "the Reptile man") for letting us hold Lucy, his 6-year-old alligator he has raised since it was a baby. Scott had Lucy and several more of his cold-blooded friends at the Bremerton Rotary's Wild Game charity dinner on Saturday, February 24, 2018.



### The Training Grind

In a previous BPD Update, I talked about the constant training officers are given. At times, it can seem like a grind to sit through 8 to 10 hours of training every month; but it is necessary for accreditation purposes and to meet to requirements of a professionally trained police force. We are lucky. Many police departments, because of size or staffing limitations, can't train as frequently as we are able to. Last week, Captain Wolfe provided an excellent 6-hour presentation on understanding bias. That session was followed by training on the Taser, pepper

March 6, 2018

### Contact

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spray and less-lethal munitions.



## On to the Events of the Week

### **Shoplifting + Previous Trespass = Burglary**

As you might know, when you get caught stealing at Winco, they trespass you for 99 years. A man we'll call Mister K was detained by Winco loss prevention officers for attempting to steal a pair of scissors and a knife. Officer George responded.

I think all would agree that a private business has a right to engage commerce based on the concept of a fair exchange of money for goods. It's also reasonable that a business has a right to bar someone from the premises, who disregards the fair exchange and decides to steal. The law agrees.

Now it turns out that Mr. K had been previously caught stealing at Winco in 2017, at which time he was barred from entering the store for the standard 99 years. Mr. K did not wait for the 99 years. He couldn't even wait one year. The wares inside the store were so tempting; he violated the ban within 5 months. Because of his lack of impulse control, Mr. K met the Revised Code of Washington's elements for the crime of Burglary in the 2nd degree (illegally enter a building with the intent to commit a crime). Burglary count #1.

*Wait there is more.*

Corporal Polonsky recognized the name Mr. K and said he was working with Winco security video that clearly shows Mr. K inside Winco and stealing more items only a few days ago. Burglary count #2.

*Wait there is still more.*

Officer George transported Mr. K to the jail only to discover he was wearing blue jeans with a JC Penney security clamp still attached. Mr. K was also sporting a pair of black shoes that still had the Marshalls tags attached. Both items are likely stolen. [Sergeant Sargent]

## Headquarters

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## BPD Staff Directory

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Jennifer Corn  
Kenny Davis  
Cory Ditmer  
Trevor Donnelly  
Derek Ejde  
Jordan Ejde  
Christopher Faidley  
Sara Felty  
Jared France  
Steven Forbragd  
Martin Garland  
Alexander George  
Brandon Greenhill  
Ross Guiney  
Bryan Hall  
David Hughes  
Jeffrey Inklebarger  
Kent Mayfield  
Allan McComas  
Michael Nelson  
Samantha Ortona  
William Prouse  
Johnny Rivera  
Frank Shaw  
Josh Stottlemeyer  
Jacob Switzer  
Matthew Thuring

### **PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

David Boynton  
Rena Brown  
Tom Danaher  
Barbara Forbes  
Donna Goodwin  
Marie Hansen  
Dennis Hughes  
Elizabeth Lumsden  
Elena Rinonos  
Marixa Scott  
Joseph Sexton  
Samantha Switzer  
Debra Williams

### **CORPORAL**

Beau Ayers  
Todd Byers  
Steven Polonsky  
Rodney Rauback  
Dahle Roessel  
Jeff Schaefer  
Matthew Strombach  
Jason Vertefeuille

### **SERGEANTS**

Kevin Crane  
Richard Cronk  
Aaron Elton  
Timothy Garrity  
Ryan Heffernan  
Kelly Meade  
Billy Renfro  
Keith Sargent

### **LIEUTENANTS**



Michael Davis  
Luis Olan  
Randy Plumb  
**CAPTAINS**  
Tom Wolfe  
**INTERIM CHIEF**  
James Burchett

### Catch-22 - 74 years later.

The sharp-eyed among you may have noticed that the submitter of the previous item was Sergeant Sargent. That's not a misprint. Ever since we hired Keith Sargent away from the Pierce County Sheriff's Office, we knew that the day would eventually come when he was promoted to his homophonous rank. (Note: Homophone - words having the same pronunciation but different meanings or spelling). We are very proud of this curiosity, reminiscent of the character Major Major from Joseph Heller's novel Catch 22.



### Party crasher lands herself in jail for assault 4th

A woman, who we will call Ms. G, crashed a private birthday party at a local bar. She probably would have gone unnoticed if it she didn't try to pick up a married man. A female friend of the married man confronted Ms. G, who proceeded to punch the friend in the face and knock her down. The victim said she has never been hit that hard before. Ms. G claims she was not drinking, but her actions spoke otherwise. After she was escorted out, she did a 180-degree turn and attempted to march back into the bar, but was blocked by the security at the door. Ms. G then fought with and assaulted security. The security officers did not want to press charges, but the original victim did. Ms. G said she punched the girl

because she threw a drink on her. Ms. G went to jail for Assault 4th. [Sergeant Sargent]

### **Excited Delirium ?**

A man was reported by his family as running from his house yelling for help in the 1700 block of North Cambrian Avenue. The 911 call was chaotic with a lot of yelling happening. Officers Polonsky and Inklebarger arrived first and asked for more units and less lethal options as the man was a large build and appeared to be in excited delirium. The man continued running and acting paranoid and removed his clothing. The man was finally subdued without incident for medical treatment. This incident was admittedly caused by meth use. About a month ago, his brother used meth and acted oddly throughout Bremerton and into the County. He eventually removed his clothing and entered the Pendergast soccer park where he was detained for medical assistance. [Sergeant Sargent]

Note: The above case presents the classic indication of excited delirium syndrome. Over the past decade, we've learned more about the syndrome, which can result in death. Frequently, the police are called to someone acting bizarrely, attracted to lights, shouting incoherently and removing their clothing. When the police try to subdue the person, they are met with unexpected strength and ferocity. Baton strikes and Tasers are ineffective. After the person is eventually subdued, usually requiring 4 to 6 officers, the person sometimes dies. We now know that the person is experiencing Excited Delirium Syndrome which is a medical emergency. The characteristic symptoms of ExDS include bizarre and aggressive behavior, shouting, paranoia, panic, violence toward others, unexpected physical strength, and overheating - thus the removal of clothing. These cases are most frequently associated with cocaine and methamphetamine abuse. Even without police interaction, the person is in extreme danger because of his irrational actions (walking into traffic because they are attracted to vehicle headlights) and the complex chemical war taking place within the body and brain. Our officers have received training on recognizing and responding ExDS in a manner that will hopefully save the person's life.

### **What does this DV Burglary call and a soccer match have in common?**

Officers Corn and Inklebarger responded to the 900 block of Shorewood when a male called to report his estranged wife of 6 years showed up on his doorstep. She knocked and he opened the door to see who was there. She pushed the door open on him and proceeded to demand a vacuum from 6 years ago (he no longer had the vacuum). She was upset and demanded a wall photo which did not belong to her. A struggle ensued over the wall art and he was slightly injured. The dog bowl was turned over. Water was everywhere and she fell to the ground. She went to the central office, pending transport to jail. While sitting at the central office waiting to go to jail, she decided her hip hurt and wanted to go to the hospital. The hospital stay was short and she was surprised to find BPD waiting for her when she was released to continue the trip to jail. It's not uncommon for a suspect to pull a "soccer flop" under the misconception that they can avoid jail. If you are unfamiliar with the term "soccer flop," you'll find some hilarious clips on YouTube. [Sergeant Sargent]

### **Jump start my car or I'll stab you (or why won't anyone help me?!)**

Corporal Polonsky and Officer Rivera responded to the Taco Bell on Wheaton

Way to investigate the report of a man with a large knife trying to stab people in the drive-thru lane. It turns out the man's vehicle was nearby and would not start. He began beating on nearby cars and hitting windows demanding people help him. No one would help. He eventually pulled out a large bowie knife from a sheath on his hip and began threatening people who didn't want to assist him. All people wanted was a burrito. Officers arrived and took him into custody. [Sergeant Sargent]

### **Coffee saves the day**

Officer Stottlemeyer responded to the Salvation Army for a male who was 'feeling out of sorts'. His friends called and were worried because he was shivering and had no place to go. He thought he was trespassed from the Salvation Army and the Rescue Mission was full. He had no place to go and only wanted a warm cup of coffee. As he was beginning to escalate, the Bremerton Fire Department arrived and he calmed down just a bit. Officer Stottlemeyer took the opportunity and cleared the path with the Salvation Army so he had a place to stay, but he was still cold. While aid was still talking to him, Officer Stottlemeyer grabbed a cup of coffee from the 7-11, paying from his own pocket, and presented it to the man. Well done!

### **Community Service - Sometimes it's the small stuff**

A man in the central area of Bremerton had his solar powered light stolen from his yard. Usually, there is not much we can do. In this case, however, the neighbor had some security video. Officer Cory Ditmer responded and took a report. On Friday, Community Resource Specialist Joe Sexton got a nice email from the victim.

*Joe,*

*... I am in shock that someone would actually care about something as trivial as my solar powered light getting stolen. Thank you very much.*

*Steve M.*

Sometimes the way we handle the minor cases leave a big impression. Thank you Officer Ditmer.

### **Our SRO is pretty darn excellent**

The Broward County Sheriff's Office is taking some heat after their School Resource Officer reportedly waited outside a high school during a shooting in Parkland, Florida. I don't know all the details so I am not going to join the bandwagon throwing out opinions. What I can comment on is our excellent SRO Kenny Davis. This week we recognized his outstanding work on a sensitive case. It didn't result in a flashy arrest, but his compassionate interaction with the people involved had a positive impact. They will remember him the rest of their lives. His work at the schools provides a positive example of the police to our young people and continues the excellent long-standing relationship between the Bremerton Police Department and the Bremerton School District. [Click here](#) for a pretty good article from the New York Times on the important role SRO's play in our communities.



### **Mail stealing male**

Corporal Schaefer was dispatched to a mail theft on Rocky Point Road. A citizen returned home to observe a male in a camo hat and pants and a trench coat in his mailbox. The guy took off southbound. The victim believed the suspect swiped a laptop charger that was ordered off of eBay. Corporal Schaefer found junk mail all over the ground on nearby Bertha Avenue, but was unable to locate the suspect.

Fast forward to shift change, officers were called to Arnold's Home Furnishings for a transient zonked out in one of the recliners. The man refused to leave so he was arrested for criminal trespass. It's worth noting the subject was wearing the same camouflage clothing as described by the mail theft victim.

Officer Avery's search incident to arrest yielded some mail belonging to other people...and a laptop charger in a package belonging to the reporting party of the mail theft. If you're keeping score at home, this means that the thief didn't even bother to throw away the evidence after his thievery. He was booked for trespass and possessing stolen property and the laptop charger was reunited with its owner. In other news, there may be a heavily discounted recliner available at Arnold's.....

### **Next time just go with "these aren't my pants"**

Officer Corey was dispatched to suspicious activity on Synder Avenue. A citizen called to report a couple of guys snooping around a vacant residence. Upon contact, the two said they were checking out rentals. Officer Corey asked for their ID's. One of the subjects gladly handed his over while the other one did some hemming and hawing. He verbally identified himself and Officer Corey told them they were free to go (Corporal Schaefer's nickel's worth of free advice: when the cops tell you you're free to go, leave).

Mr. Verbal ID came back with a warrant for obstructing. Officer Corey hooked him up and searched his person incident to arrest. In his pocket, he found suspected meth. When questioned about this, the arrestee said he found it on the ground and was going to present it to one of his "addict" friends to see if he knew what it was. Does anyone else think this statement is lamer than the "these aren't my pants" defense? Of course the substance tested positive for the presence of meth and the guy went to jail. [Corporal Schaefer]

### **Saddle shoes and cupcakes**

Sounds like the name of a romance novel doesn't it? Actually, it was an outline of Watch Recap Hall of Famer Ms. M.'s afternoon downtown.

It all started when Officer Berntsen was dispatched to a 4th Street vintage clothing store for a theft of a pair of 1950's era saddle shoes. The reporting party stated a woman entered the store and tried them on. She liked them so much she left without paying for them. The suspect sounded like Ms. M based on the description. About 20 minutes later, there was a call at a nearby cupcake shop of the same suspect grabbing one of the delicious products, taking a bite of it and putting in back in the case. The suspect's description on this incident removed all doubt that it was Ms. M.

Officer Corey was scouring the area and found Ms. M at the downtown daytime shelter aka the library. She was still wearing the shoes and likely still had butter cream on her breath. The shoes were returned to the store and apparently there is a heavily discounted cupcake available at Little Blessing Cupcakes on Burwell Street. Ms. M was booked for two counts of theft. [Corporal Schaefer]

### **No Good Deed Goes Unpunished**

Officer Ejde and Officer Greenhill were in the area of the 600 block of Bertha when they were dispatched to an assault in progress. They arrived within minutes and contacted the 71-year-old victim who had managed to escape to a neighbor's residence to call 911.

The victim said she allowed 36-year-old transient, Benjamin Hamel, to move into her residence. Earlier in the day, he began drinking and became highly intoxicated. As the effects of the alcohol began to take effect, Hamel started arguing with the victim's roommate, a 64-year-old man. As the arguing intensified, the victim exited her bedroom and joined the two in the living room. At one point, our transient made disparaging remarks about the race of the second roommate and expressed his desire to kill him. Soon after, he began to list others he wanted to kill.

As the victim pleaded with him to not kill anyone, Hamel turned his anger toward her. He began calling her names as he moved closer, eventually squeezing her head like a ball, striking her multiple times about the face and head, covering her mouth with his hand and eventually squeezing her throat. The victim described the events as lasting nearly two minutes. During this time, she struggled for air. Throughout the assault, the victim said Hamel called her multiple names and stated he was going to kill her.

Eventually, the assault subsided and the victim agreed to drive Hamel across

town in order to locate and kill another couple. This lucky couple wasn't located so our victim and Hamel returned to the Bertha address. As the victim exited her vehicle, she took the opportunity to run to her neighbor and call 911.

The victim gave permission for officers to check her residence as she believed her second roommate may have been harmed. Officers located Hamel inside the residence where he was taken into custody without incident. He denied responsibility for the assault and claimed the victim had been attacked by her roommate.

Hamel was booked in the Kitsap County Jail. Prosecutors charged Hamel with Assault 2. [Corporal Byers]

[Click here](#) for the Kitsap Sun's article on the incident.

### **Local Denizen Turned Police Department Hero!**

From Sergeant Ryan Heffernan: As I was down at the Salvation Army for a call where I couldn't find the Reporting Party, three or four denizens contacted me saying they needed police services. One of them was one of our frequent flyers. He wanted to talk privately because he had recovered a stolen police badge and wanted to turn it over to me. Needless to say, I was intrigued.

The man produced a genuine Port Orchard Police badge and said he saw it on a "kid" downtown a few days ago. He talked to him about it and the kid told him he stole it and a "billy club" from a display case in the Port Orchard Police lobby. Our man knew this wasn't right and told the guy he wanted it. The guy said he'd sell it to him for \$80. Our hero paid the ransom and was given the badge which he turned over to me.

The suspect was confirmed to be a relative newcomer to the transient scene but someone dayshift has dealt with twice this past week. There's Probable Cause to arrest him. I returned the badge to Port Orchard PD, who confirmed the display case had been violated and along with the badge, an old sap sand club had been stolen too. There was talk by POPD of maybe rewarding our reporting party with \$80 for his efforts.



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