BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kitsap County Man Jailed Following High Speed Crash and K-9 Track

The Bremerton Police Department is completing follow up investigation of a crash which occurred last night at about 7:25 PM on Old Belfair Valley Road near the 7200 block, east of the Gold Mountain Golf Course entrance. 41 year old Sidney Wright has been jailed for Attended Hit and Run, Reckless Driving, and Driving While License Suspended. Bail has been set at $250,000. The man had recently been released from prison after serving time for Criminal Vehicular Homicide in relation to an incident in which a baby was killed in a crash on Highway 303 in 2010 in unincorporated Kitsap County.

Officers responded last night after receiving several reports of a head-on crash. Callers reported as well that the driver of the suspect vehicle had fled on foot eastbound toward the Gorst area, into the woods, and a description was provided.

Officers arrived within a few minutes and the crash was ¼ mile east of the golf course entrance. Preliminary investigation indicates that the suspect vehicle, a black Chevrolet Tahoe, was westbound on Old Belfair Valley Highway at a very high rate of speed, estimated at 80 mph in the 45 zone. He was passing vehicles on a double yellow no-passing zone. The vehicle that had been struck head-on by the suspect vehicle in the eastbound lane was blocking traffic, and the lone driver, who had been driving a maroon Ford Explorer, was later transported to Harrison Hospital with arm, leg, and back pain as well as a possible concussion. Air bags had been deployed in both vehicles. It was also determined at the scene that after the Tahoe struck the Explorer, it spun around in the roadway and then struck a camping trailer being towed by a third vehicle. The occupants of that vehicle were unhurt.

The occupants of the third vehicle reported to the officers that they saw the suspect driver get out of the Tahoe, approach the Explorer with the injured man still inside, and ask "are you okay?" When he could not get the door open, he returned to his vehicle, got a backpack and several items out of the truck, and yelled "I'm getting the f--- out of here" before running into the woods.

Officers contacted the registered owner of the suspect vehicle, who said her husband was likely using the truck and that he had recently been in trouble for driving without a license. The husband's name is Sidney Ellis Wright, age 41 of unincorporated Central Kitsap County. His driving status is Revoked for Vehicular Homicide.

Bremerton K-9 Officer Bryan Hall and his K-9 partner Ando located Wright hiding in the woods, after a long track, east of the scene at 8:41 PM. He was returned to the scene. Wright was treated for K-9 bite injuries at Harrison Hospital before being booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of Felony Attended Hit and Run, Driving While License Revoked and Reckless Driving. Bail was set at $250,000.

A records check shows that Wright was convicted of Criminal Vehicular Homicide in relation to an incident on October 6, 2010. That crash occurred on Highway 303 in unincorporated Kitsap County north of Bremerton, and a baby in another vehicle was killed in that incident. Wright had recently been released from prison after serving time for that conviction.

Wright has six pages of driving related infractions and incidents. The investigation of this incident continues. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the incident at this time.

"We are also working with the Kitsap Co Prosecutors office and have asked them to consider a Vehicular Assault charge," said Bremerton Police Chief Steve Strachan. He added "Our officers were very diligent in making sure we had the suspect in custody and got him off the roadways as quickly as possible."

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