Homeowner Detains Suspected Thief

Local News

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Menlo, WA. - On January 9th at about 8:30 AM, the Pacific County Communications Center received a call from a resident on Hyland Stringer road. The caller advised the communications center that a male subject was being detained by employees of the caller for trespassing and possible possession of what appeared to be a stolen vehicle. The description of the vehicle given by the caller matched the description of a vehicle that had been recently stolen from a Raymond area residence.

Deputies with the Sheriff’s Office responded assisted by officers with the Raymond Police Department. Upon arrival, the subject was arrested by deputies. The subject actively resisted during the arrest. The subject was identified as Rafael Acosta, age 25, of Raymond. Suspected methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, burglary tools and a dangerous weapon were discovered on Acosta’s person incident to the arrest.

While investigating the incident, deputies learned that a residence directly next door to the area of this incident had been burglarized. The owner of the residence stated that she was missing an ATV and provided the make and model. The owner advised that the ATV had been in her closed garage. A set of keys was located on Acosta’s person as well and the key to the stolen ATV was in his pocket, however the ATV was not on sight. The key to the stolen vehicle Acosta was attempting to leave the scene in was also found in his pocket.

A search warrant was prepared and served on the vehicle by deputies. Deputies discovered other stolen property in the vehicle that matched the description of property that had been taken just days earlier from another reported burglary in the area. The property inside the vehicle included a Honda Trail motorcycle. Deputies are continuing to investigate and follow leads regarding this incident in an attempt to locate the stolen ATV and possible other missing property. Acosta was transported to the Pacific County Jail for booking on charges of possession of a controlled substance (Methamphetamine), resisting arrest, possession of a stolen motor vehicle (2 counts) and possession of stolen property.