

MEDIA RELEASE



Kennewick Police Department - "Committed to your Safety"

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Time: 2:48 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ON-DUTY PIO OR:

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Non-Investigative Informational Announcement

Case Number: 22-11065, 22-11071, 22-11073

Type of Incident:

Multiple

Date / Time of Incident: 03/17/22 / starting at 0753

Location of Incident: Multiple

Do not release suspect name if they are a juvenile.

Suspect's Name / Age: Digoberto Galvez, 31 y/o

City of Residence: N/A

Suspect in Custody **Charges:** Attempt to Elude, DWLS 3rd, Vehicle Theft, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Hit and Run, Dangerous Weapons Violation, 2 counts of Malicious Mischief 1st, 2 counts of Assault 3rd Degree

Verify spelling as the spell check does not work with this field.

Summary of Incident / Details:

KPD #22-11065, KPD #22-11071, KPD #22-11073

On 03/17/2022 at approximately 7:53am, Officer were dispatched to a possible fight in progress at a business located at the intersection of East 1st Avenue and South Gum Street. Prior to officers arriving in the area, dispatch advised the involved parties had left in separate vehicles, described as a white SUV and a Dark colored SUV. The reporting party advised the vehicle left southbound on SR 397 towards Finley.

An officer in the area of East 3rd Ave and South Nutmeg St observed two vehicles matching that description traveling eastbound from that location. The vehicles turned southbound on S Oak Street, and continued south from there. The officer attempted to stop the vehicles, however the driver of the dark colored SUV accelerated to a high rate of speed and recklessly swerved around the white SUV, nearly causing an accident. At that point the officer stopped pursuing and deactivated their emergency equipment. Both vehicles were last seen eastbound on East 7th Ave. toward Finley.



A short time later, Benton County Sheriff's Office dispatch advised of two vehicles matching the same description were being driven recklessly at a high rate of speed in the area of East Finley Rd and South Havana St. seen headed toward SR 397. Shortly after that, Benton County dispatch advised of an accident involving those same vehicles. Because of their connection to the crimes committed in Kennewick, Kennewick Officers responded. Upon arrival, Officer discovered the occupants of the vehicle left eastbound from the location on foot.

The collision occurred at the intersection of E Bowles Rd and SR397, so Washington State Patrol was called to handle the collision. While KPD Officers, Benton County SO deputies, and WSP Troopers were on scene of the collision, they were notified of individuals matching the description of the driver of the dark-colored SUV running through private property and trying to hide from passersby. While Deputies responded to the area, the suspect stole a vehicle, a silver Buick, and left the area.

At approximately 10:35am, Dispatch advised that two males were in a physical altercation. They advised that one of the males involved in the collision was attempting to run from the scene. The last remarks stated several citizens were physically detaining the suspect, who had a large knife on his person. When officers arrived on scene, they observed two vehicles involved in the collision, and a third, undamaged vehicle parked near the collision. That vehicle was the vehicle that was stolen from Benton County by the suspect from the earlier eluding case.

At the same time this call was being dispatched, there was a vehicle theft pending from the 3100-block of South Olympia St for a white Subaru. Dispatch recognized one of the vehicles involved in the collision as the stolen vehicle from this call and advised officers.

The victim of the vehicle theft that occurred on S Olympia St was on scene and advised they heard the suspect arrive at the residence in a vehicle and heard a door slam. They then heard the door to their Subaru open, and observed the suspect sitting in the driver's seat of their white Subaru. They then observed the suspect pull out of the driveway in their vehicle and leave the area. The suspect left the Buick, in the victim's driveway running. The victim got into the Buick, followed the suspect, who stole the victim's Subaru. The suspect was then involved in the collision at South Cascade St and South Highland Dr, in the stolen Subaru. It was later determined that the Buick, was the stolen vehicle from Benton County's earlier mentioned call for service. The victim in that case was able to respond and recover their stolen vehicle.

The suspect was arrested and transported to the hospital for medical clearance. While enroute to the hospital, The suspect moved their handcuffs to the front, laid down in the back of a patrol vehicle, and used both of his feet to attempt to kick out the rear passenger side door. The suspect nearly kicked the door open, and the window was broken out, and the door was not properly on the frame. The damage was preventing the front passenger door from opening. The officer sitting in the front passenger's seat was forced to exit through the window due to the damage to the vehicle.

Additional officers needed to respond to the area to restrain the suspect's feet in order to further restrain the male from damaging the patrol vehicle. Prior to doing so, Officers attempted to deescalate the suspect by advising him of the plan, and requesting that the suspect cooperate to avoid possible injury to the suspect. When officers attempted to remove the suspect he swung his hands toward an officer, attempting to strike them in the face with closed fists.

Once restrained, officers put the suspect in the back of a vehicle and began transporting him to Trios. At West 27th Ave and South Union St, the transporting officer saw the suspect sit up in the back seat, and realized he had removed the leg restraint. The suspect moved his handcuffs to the front again, laid down and kicked the passenger side window. The transporting officer stopped thier vehicle and requested more units. Pasco PD responded with a wrap restraint. Officers brought Valdez out of the vehicle, and placed the suspect in the restraint system. While officers were placing the suspect in the restraints, he spit on an officer on scene.

The suspect was transported to Trios for a medical clearance. He will be charged with the following charges, possibly others from other jurisdictions: Attempt to Elude, Driving while License Suspended 3rd Degree, Auto Theft, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Hit and Run, Dangerous Weapons Violation, two counts of Malicious Mischief 1st Degree, and two counts of Assault 3rd Degree.

The Kennewick Police Department would like to thank all of the neighboring agencies that assisted with this case.

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If anyone has information about this incident, please call the non-emergency number at 509-628-0333 and reference the above case number. Anonymous tips can also be provided online at www.kpdtips.com.

Posted to Facebook

Photos, Audio, and/or Video Attached

Prepared by: J. Ealy-Thomas PIO / Supervisor

Date / Time: 03/17/2022 / 1321