



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



BPD Weekly Update

Scammers

Phone call or computer message scams are at an all-time high. It is the number one complaint to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). They are so prevalent because they work, particularly against vulnerable senior citizens. I'm often asked for advice about what people can do about these possible scams. I tell people to do what I do, just hang up. I received this email from one of our readers:

Is there a number, an agency that a person can report fraudulent phone calls to? I have had thirty-seven phone calls in the last four days: The IRS, Social Security, Payday Loans, Government grants, someone is suing me. All are threatening: I am going to jail, I am going to lose everything, etc. I know they are scammers and sometimes I mess with them, but they have been prolific the last few days. Oh yeah, I have won publishers clearing house and just need a mere \$950 for taxes up front to get my \$3.5 million and a new 2020 Lincoln Navigator. I am so sick of these calls, and one never knows, because they come from local numbers. My favorite was from a collection agency...if I do not pay, they will have me arrested on Monday.

Me: *"Okay, I will wait for you to come on Monday."*

Scammer: *"If you would pay us the \$1160 now, we could avoid that."*

Me: *"No, I will arrange to have all my stuff put storage and you can come and get me Monday."*

Scammer: *"You would rather go to jail than pay this bill?"*

Me: *"Yes, yes, I would because I would not have to worry about lights, cable, car payments, rent payments or groceries for a while. If you lock me up for 6 months, I can save a tremendous amount of money because I have auto deposit. You make jail sound like such a bad thing. I will be ready on Monday."*

Scammer: *"Eff you"* and hung up.

I thought she handled this scammer great, don't you? Remember, the IRS is not going to call you and threaten to arrest you for tax evasion the next day unless you send them a \$1,000 in Google gift cards. The same thing goes for missing jury duty, library fines, tow bills, etc. Your grandson, who does not sound like himself, is not going to call you from another state and ask you to bail him out of jail with a money order. These are all scams good citizens fall for every day. The US government puts out some simple tips to avoid being scammed

Do

- Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry.

March 4, 2020

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BPD Staff Directory

OFFICERS
Ryan Avery

You may register online or by calling 1-888-382-1222. If you still receive telemarketing calls after registering, there's a good chance that the calls are scams.

- Be wary of callers claiming that you've won a prize or vacation package.
- Hang up on suspicious phone calls.
- Be cautious of caller ID. Scammers can change the phone number that shows up on your caller ID screen. This is called "spoofing."
- Independently research business opportunities, charities, or travel packages being offered by the caller.

Don't

- Don't give in to pressure to take immediate action.
- Don't say anything if a caller starts the call asking, "Can you hear me?" This is a common tactic for scammers to record you saying "yes." Scammers record your "yes" response and use it as proof that you agreed to a purchase or credit card charge.
- Don't provide your credit card number, bank account information, or other personal information to a caller.
- Don't send money if a caller tells you to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card.

K9 Esco at it again...

Officer Chris Faidley and K9 Esco recently conducted a demonstration for potential future police officers and K9 handlers at a local elementary school. We believe in playing the long game.



Kasey Barnes-Trask
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Mitchell Chapman
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Cory Ditmer
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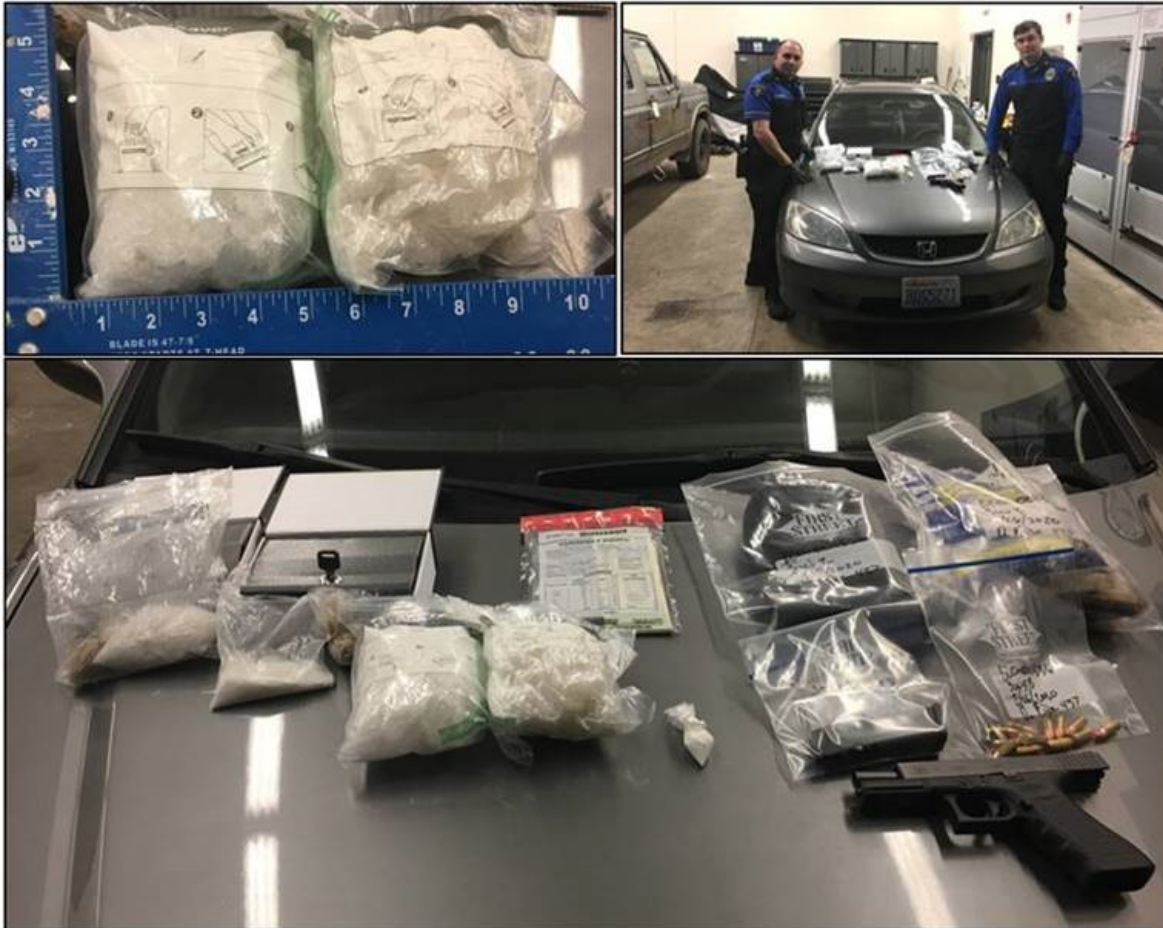
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Billy Renfro
Dahle Roessel
Keith Sargent

Jeff Schaefer
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Randy Plumb
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CHIEF
James Burchett

Best Traffic Stop Ever?

Recently, DET Officers Brandon Greenhill and Derek Ejde made a traffic stop on a suspended driver. K9 Remy alerted to the vehicle and a search warrant was obtained. The search resulted in the discovery of about 2.4 pounds of Methamphetamine, approximately two ounces of heroin, a stolen handgun, and the seizure of \$800.00 and a vehicle. Probably one of the best traffic stops EVER! Actually, I'm giving a lot of credit to K9 "Remy"...I think three search warrants were being obtained as a result of that girl's nose. A "nice job!" goes to her handler, Officer Ryan Avery [Sergeant Billy Renfro]



Blown Opportunity

Cencom advised of a possible DUI/Wrong-Way Driver on Washington Avenue in a red Dodge truck. A short time later, we received a call about a male slumped at the wheel in a red truck on Burwell Street at Pacific Avenue. When officers arrived on scene, the driver was indeed asleep, and holding a glass meth pipe in his hand. He woke up to the sound of Officer Brandon Smith knocking on the window. He was quickly arrested for the paraphernalia and searched incident to arrest. Officer Smith found a small baggie of meth in the man's pocket. The suspect began crying saying how bad he messed up. Officers asked for consent to search the vehicle and he agreed. He told them there was more meth in between the seats. He was not lying, there was approximately 9.4 grams in a zip baggie. He was transported to the jail and booked for Possession of Meth and Drug Paraphernalia. The man said he was currently in drug court for a previous case.

[Note: Drug Court has had a positive impact in Kitsap County. According to the National Institute of Justice, drug court programs lead to lower re-arrest rates and higher recovery rates. Offenders view acceptance into drug court as a golden

opportunity to beat their addiction. Many want it, but few are chosen. If, at any point, a participant fails to follow the Drug Court rules, they are removed from the program and immediately face sentencing without a new trial. It's sad to hear someone falls short.]

Slumber Party Turns Into Party

You know the theme of kids having a wild party while their parents are away? Yeah, that happens in real life, too. In our story, the parents left their teen daughter at home while they went on vacation. They returned home only to find fifty juveniles running out the back door. Officer Nate Smith was called to the scene. All of the furniture was gone with the exception of a folding table with a bunch of bottles on it. According to the daughter, she invited seven friends over for a slumber party. The word got out on social media. More people started showing up uninvited. Unable to control the hoard who had invaded her house, she locked herself in her parent's room. Somehow, she ended drinking something that she suspected was alcohol. Oops! The daughter was on probation for previous crimes and was on a curfew. The numbers on the portable breath test showed .052. She was arrested for Minor in Possession of Alcohol and taken to Juvenile Facilities. [Sergeant Todd Byers]

I don't like IPA's

Officer Adam Merritt had a Hyundai heading southbound over the bridge at 13 mph over the speed limit. He followed it and was amused by the driver making a bunch of turns and finally ending up driving through an alley and popping out onto 6th Street. He stopped the car and contacted the driver who said she was "kinda" lost. He could tell from her driving, speech and "one beer" comment that she was likely driving under the influence. The driver agreed to perform field sobriety tests (FST's) which didn't work out in her favor. After being placed under arrest for DUI, she was transported to the Police Station for the test which resulted in the samples registering around the .100 range. During the investigation, the violator changed her story from "one beer" to "three lagers" because she "doesn't like IPA's." Good to know. [Sergeant Jeff Schaefer]

Does ANYONE properly use a trip permit?

Officer Merritt stopped a speeder with no rear license plate. As he walked up to the driver, he noted the shoddy looking trip permit in the back window. Turns out the driver had a suspended license with an arrest warrant for the same crime. She got the trip permit out of the window and Officer Merritt noted it had been covered in clear tape, making it one of those "dry erase" trip permits. Want to avoid paying for your registration? Just spend \$30 on a trip permit and make it reusable! Genius! Unfortunately for this enterprising criminal, it's also a misdemeanor. So, that was tacked onto her booking sheet. [Sergeant Schaefer]

Welcome to Bremerton. Now please leave.

Police were called to investigate a subject causing a commotion down at the 7-Eleven at 6th Street and Park Avenue. Officer Merritt contacted the fellow who continued to enjoy his refreshing 4 Loco. After being ordered to put it down, Officer Merritt asked for his name. The guy said, "Sunshine." By this time, the store clerk had his fill of *Sunshine* for the day and wanted him trespassed. The guy said, "*You'll just have to arrest me.*" He wasn't kidding. About an hour later, he took his show on the road to a local tavern where he was still acting like a schmo and refusing to leave. He was ordered to leave and when he didn't, he was placed under arrest and booked into jail. Turns out he's fresh in town from Illinois. Why do they always end up here? [Sergeant Schaefer]

Fundamental Police Work Pays Dividends

Patrol officers checked the area around the old Eagles Hall for a report of a gunshot. Nothing was found. Sergeant Garrity asked a man up on Pleasant Avenue if he heard anything. The guy said, "Yeah, over yonder yada yada." Sergeant Garrity let the man go and continued looking.

Later, a citizen contacted the police with security footage from directly across the alley by the Eagles Hall. The video showed the same guy cranking off a round from a pistol, picking up the brass and then casually making his way up 6th Street towards Pleasant Avenue. Sergeant Garrity did some research on the fellow. Turns out, the suspect works evenings in Seattle. Sergeant Garrity guessed the man likely takes the same route every night from the ferry to his home on Pleasant. He devised a plan to watch the alley during that same time the next night. Other officers would station themselves around the end of the alley and the Norm Dicks Building.

Just like a finely tuned Swiss watch, two subjects walked through the alley and into the Norm Dicks lot where Officer Peterson contacted them. Both looked like the suspect in the security video. They were proned-out on the ground and detained. In fact, they were brothers. One of the brothers immediately confessed to being the shooter, saying he just fired the gun for fun after buying it from some man in Seattle for \$200. A computer check showed the gun to be stolen out of North Kitsap about five years ago. The suspect was booked for that, unlawful discharge, unlawful carry and the always creative Officer Peterson added on a firearms transfer violation to his booking sheet as the icing on this cake. [Sergeant Schaefer]



It's not just humans we serve.

While investigating a domestic assault at a home in west Bremerton, officers discovered seven dogs living in filth. All the dogs were turned over to Kitsap Animal Rescue. The owner was booked into jail for Animal Cruelty 2nd Degree. The pups seem to be happy to see us. [Sergeant Renfo]



A One-Man Crime Wave

Officer Adam Merritt stopped a driver of a stolen vehicle. The vehicle had been reported stolen to the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. After seeing and stopping it, Officer Merritt took the driver into custody. Inside the car, Officer Merritt found several clothing garments and a handbag with the tags still on them. He also located several cell phones and tablets still in their factory boxes. Turns out several of the boxes were stolen from the Sprint kiosk in the Kitsap Mall. The clothing and all the devices, plus three loose iPhones from the suspect's pocket, were seized as evidence. There was also a heap of drug paraphernalia found. A Possession of Stolen Property charge was added to the suspect's booking sheet. On the way to jail, the guy said he was looking at maybe four years in prison since he just got into trouble for being in a stolen car. Brilliant! [Sergeant Schaefer]

Two birds, one stone

Officer Adam Merritt stopped a car for speeding in the downtown area. Cencom informed him that the same vehicle was involved in a liquor theft at the Walgreen's on Kitsap Way earlier in the day. Due to the driver's lead foot and the odor of intoxicants on his breath, Officer Merritt asked the fellow if he'd like to do some FST's. He said, "Sure." After not doing so hot on them and blowing over .08 on the portable breath test, he was placed under arrest. The driver quipped he "even speeds when he's sober."

The driver was questioned about the liquor theft. He said a guy he knows asked him to take him to Walgreen's. While waiting in the car for him, the thief came out of the store with over \$100 in liquor in a shopping basket. The driver asked him

why he would spend \$100 on alcohol, but not pay fifteen cents for a bag. The suspect said he refuses to pay for bags now that the plastic bag ban is on. I can respect someone who stands for their principles.

I guess the driver didn't think much of it nor was he concerned when a store employee followed the suspect out. Fast forward, the driver said he had three shots of Jack at a local watering hole and was heading home when he was stopped. He again stated he speeds all the time. After donating lung air to Mr. Draeger, where he blew in the .07 neighborhood, he was booked into jail.
[Sergeant Schaefer]

DET + DOC = DONE

The Directed Enforcement Team had Department of Corrections officers riding with them recently when Officer Derek Ejde saw a familiar car pass him. He knew the vehicle was often driven by a man who had a DOC warrant. When he caught a glimpse of the driver, the driver resembled the warrant subject. By the time Officer Ejde got turned around and caught up to the car, it was parked. The suspect's girlfriend approached Officer Ejde, obviously running interference, saying that it wasn't him in the car but someone else. Officer Ejde knew better and called the man out. When he stepped out, he had a hat over his face and denied being the man Officer Ejde was looking for. As you can imagine, this guy's feeble attempt to avoid the cops lasted about a half a second before he was arrested for his warrant and suspended driving. Officers found drug paraphernalia in the car. [Sergeant Schaefer]

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