



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
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Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

Press Release

November 28, 2010

Kidnapping / Stabbing ... Leroy Township

On 11-28-2010 at 0407 hrs., the Lake County Sheriff's Office received a call from a resident of Buxton Circle in Painesville Twp. who advised that she witnessed an assault of an adult white female and the possible kidnapping of this female by a local adult white male resident from this neighborhood. Upon arrival of the Sheriff's Office, it was learned that several witnesses observed the known male suspect physically assault a female outside of a residence on Buxton Circle. The witnesses observed the known male suspect drag the female victim to his car, described as a 2003 black Honda Accord and place her in the trunk of the vehicle, after which time the suspect fled the area in his vehicle.

An immediate attempt to locate was broadcasted to local and adjacent law enforcement agencies. At approximately 0430 hrs., the Sheriff's Office received a second call related to this incident from the cashier on duty at the Vrooman Rd. BP Gas Station at the intersection of Interstate 90 in Leroy Twp. The attendant at the store reported that a female had been stabbed at the location in the lot and was severely injured. Upon arrival of the Sheriff's Office, it was determined that the injured 20 year old female, Megan M. VanWinkle had serious visible injuries to her face and had sustained multiple stab wounds to her back, head and neck. Initial statements from the victim indicated that her ex-boyfriend, one Charles J. Rhodes, age 20 also from Painesville Twp. had physically assaulted her, abducted her from the location of the assault and drove to this location to get gas before entering I90. The victim indicated that while stopped at the gas station, she was able to free herself from the trunk from an internal release mechanism after which time she jumped out of the trunk and was then assaulted further and stabbed repeatedly by Rhodes as she tried to get away from him. The victim was able to run into the service center after which time Rhodes fled east on Interstate 90 in his vehicle. VanWinkle was transported to Tri-Point Medical Center by the Fire Dpt. and subsequently flown via Life Flight to Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland for treatment.

The Sheriff's Office was able to gather intelligence on the location of Rhodes through cell phone technology. Rhodes had called family members on his cell phone regarding the incident and his location was being tracked as his family attempted to have him turn himself into authorities. Rhodes was noted to be traveling through

Pennsylvania and into New York after which time he turned around and headed back east on Interstate 90. Shortly after 0930 hrs. the Pennsylvania State Police post in Erie PA located Rhodes in his vehicle, a traffic stop was performed on Rt. 20 and Hirtzel Rd. in Northeast Twp., Erie County, PA and Rhodes was taken into custody without incident. Rhodes had sustained lacerations to his right hand as a result of the stabbing and was treated at a local area hospital in Erie, PA before being returned to Lake County, Ohio. Rhodes is currently incarcerated at the Lake County Jail and the investigation is ongoing. Criminal charges are pending in this case. As of this release, the victim's condition was stable.

Lt. Carl Dondorfer #53