

Two Accused Of Attempted Murder By Pouring Cleaner Down Man's Throat

Two residents of a Belville rooming house are accused of trying to kill another tenant by pouring cleaning fluid down his throat after he passed out from drinking, a Brunswick County Sheriff's Department detective said Monday.

The victim, Terry Davis, 40, was found badly beaten, unconscious and bleeding from the mouth by a Wilmington Police officer on patrol near a city park Tuesday morning (Oct. 12), according to Detective Steve Mason.

Davis was recently released from New Hanover Regional Medical Center after spending two days in intensive care, Mason said. Doctors feared he had suffered severe internal injuries during the assault.

In his statement to police, Davis said he had been drinking with two other residents of the Holiday Lodge rooming house when he "got more drunk than the others and passed out."

Witnesses say the two men went through Davis's wallet, stole some papers and found

a card that led them to believe he was a police informant, Mason said.

"They started cussing at him and saying they ought to kill him and throw him in the river," Mason said. "The witnesses believed they were serious."

After beating Davis with fists and elbows, one of the men put detergent into a drinking glass. The witnesses told Mason that while one man held Davis's head back, the other one poured the contents of the glass down his throat.

Two of the witnesses said they ran, while the third said he tried to stop the two men from hurting Davis. He told Mason that he left after Davis "threw up blood."

The two men removed a watch, jacket and tennis shoes from Davis before carrying him to a vehicle and driving him to Wilmington. There they beat him further and dumped his body in a park, Mason said.

"He was black-and-blue from head to toe," said Mason.

Two days later, Detective Ken Messer arrested Valdez Whitmore, 28, and Douglas Franklin Lacy, 29, and charged them in the assault. More charges were added Friday.

Mason said one of the men was wearing Davis's shoes at the time of his arrest.

Lacy and Whitmore have been charged with first degree kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury and common law robbery. They were being held in Brunswick County Jail in lieu of \$85,000 bond Monday.

Detective Ready To Arrest Rapists, But Victim Won't Cooperate

A 28-year-old Wilmington woman was raped by two men who forced her into a car at gunpoint as she tried to telephone for help after getting a flat tire outside Leland early Friday morning, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's office Monday.

Although the woman recognized her attackers, she has refused to give their names to police, Sheriff's Detective Steve Mason said Monday.

"I believe she was raped at least twice by two men. But she won't tell us who did it," Mason said. "I have two suspects, but she is reluctant to give me the information I need to make an arrest. If she would cooperate, we'd pick them up tonight."

The woman told personnel at New Hanover Regional Medical Center that she was driving home from Leland at about 4:30 a.m. when she had car trouble near the Phoenix Minit Mart.

While talking to her sister on a pay phone, the woman said she was confronted by four black men in a white Nissan. As two of the men "slapped her around and sexually assaulted her," the incident report says one of them put a gun to her head and forced her into the car.

The woman said she was taken to a dirt road near the DuPont Co. construction entrance and raped by two of the men.

Her sister told Mason she picked the victim up at the convenience store, brought her home to Wilmington and called a rape crisis counselor, who met the two at the hospital.

In other crime reports on file at the sheriff's office Monday:

■Detective Gene Caison investigated the reported rape of a 12-year-old Conway, S.C., girl alleged to have occurred at a mobile home in Heritage Haven, between Sunset Beach and Calabash, on Oct. 12. The victim's stepfather reported that the girl told him an 18-year-old man had sex with her after giving her "straight shots of vodka," the report said. The victim is now with her father in Charlotte.

■A 52-year-old Lumberton man told Sgt. Gene Browning that he was kidnapped at gunpoint in Columbus County and forced to drive to Calabash Friday. The victim said two black men armed with a .38 caliber revolver and a .22-caliber pistol abducted him at about 9:15 a.m. and made him drive to the parking lot of a Calabash bank and surrender his wallet. "They then forced the victim to drive to several locations in Horry County (S.C.) to cash checks," the report said. After making the man cash a check at a Shallotte supermarket, the men forced him to drive them to a shed in Longwood, an abandoned building police say is frequented by drug users. The man was turned loose at about 6:30 p.m.

■A pregnant 15-year-old girl was

beaten with a metal pipe by her 14-year-old boyfriend at Clem's Mobile Home Park in Leland Saturday night. The girl told Deputy Richard Long that everything seemed fine between the two when "all of a sudden (her boyfriend) started shouting and picked up a metal pipe and started beating (her) about the body, resulting in a broken arm." She was also reportedly hit on the head. During a hospital interview, the victim told a detective that she was pregnant with her boyfriend's child and that he was aware of the fact at the time of the assault.

■About \$4,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from a woman who lives in the Shasta Lane Apartments in Leland Friday. She told Long that she came home at about 5:30 p.m.

CRIME REPORT

and immediately got into the shower. While dressing afterwards, she noticed that her jewelry was gone. Reported missing were three gold chains, three gold and diamond rings and a charm bracelet. She later found that her car stereo had been removed.

■Someone threw a rock through the back door glass at a home on Bayberry Circle in Calabash last weekend and stole a color television and radio cassette player valued at about \$900. Deputy Phil Bryant reported that the thief apparently cut himself on broken glass while opening the door. Blood was found there

and on walls and light switches inside. Damage was estimated at about \$510.

■More than \$100 worth of beer and other small items were stolen during a break-in at a marina on Cedar Landing Road, Holden Beach, Thursday night. The owner told deputy Rebekah McDonald that she did not see anything unusual when she opened the business Friday morning. Later, she noticed that a vent at the rear of the store didn't look right. "She placed her foot against it and it fell to the outside of the store." The thief apparently entered there and stole four six-packs of beer, a styrofoam cooler, candy, a fish scale, four cartons of cigarettes, three rain ponchos and a package of batteries.

■Someone caused an estimated \$10,000 damage to a truck tractor parked at a local service station Thursday night. Deputy Randy Robinson found three windows and six gauges broken, possibly by gunfire. The owner reported that the truck had been driven about 120 feet and left with the engine running overnight, causing it to "possibly lock up."

■Four young men tore the door off a bathroom at the welcome center on U.S. 17 outside Shallotte Saturday night. The janitor said he was cleaning the men's room at about 10:30 when he heard "laughter and a loud noise." He came out to see the door knocked off its hinges and four males running toward a vehicle, which then sped off.

Deputy Matthew Jesson estimated the damage at \$200.

■A color television, a Nintendo and assorted video games were stolen from a home on Leland School Road Friday night. The victim told Deputy William Hewett that the thief apparently came in through the front door, which was found standing open when she discovered the burglary early Saturday morning. A neighbor reported seeing someone at her home at about 10:30 on the night of the theft. The stolen property was valued at about \$565.

■Someone stole a 1971 Ford Maverick from the front yard of a home in Cloverleaf mobile home park, Leland, Thursday night. Deputy Brian Sanders estimated its value at \$300.

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