



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

On July 11th, 2014, Ukiah Police responded to a robbery at the Ukiah Wal-Mart. The suspect displayed a firearm and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash. A witness saw the suspect enter a waiting Nissan Sentra, which was driven away by another person.

The Ukiah Police Detectives assumed the investigation and have been working tirelessly since to identify a suspect and get him into police custody. The Detectives received information from the Ukiah and Clearlake Wal-Marts, and determined a suspect in a recent theft at the Clearlake Wal-Mart resembled the suspect in the Ukiah Wal-Mart robbery. Ukiah Police Detectives learned on July 10th, 2014, Clearlake Wal-Mart employees observed 33 year old Michael Christopher Drebaum exit the store with unpaid merchandise, which he dropped and fled and was not apprehended. Clearlake Wal-Mart employees suspected Drebaum was associated with a Nissan Sentra located in the parking lot and being driven by a female, who also fled. Drebaum is also suspected of previously having smashed the jewelry display case at the Clearlake Wal-Mart, and making off with jewelry from the case.

According to Clearlake Police, Drebaum was familiar to both the officers and to Clearlake Wal-Mart employees and was a suspect in a series of thefts from the store. Drebaum also had several warrants for his arrest in Lake County. Ukiah Police Detectives worked with Clearlake Police and over a course of several days, performed surveillance on the Sentra associated with Drebaum and identified locations Drebaum frequented. An arrest and search warrant was obtained for Drebaum, and during the evening of July 15th, Ukiah Police and Clearlake Police served the warrants at an address on Highlands Way in Clearlake.

Drebaum was located at the scene and taken into custody. Clothing and other evidence, including the firearm, linking Drebaum to the robbery in Ukiah was located. The firearm was determined to be a BB gun which, in every way, appears to be a genuine firearm. Clearlake Police also located evidence linking Drebaum to the series of thefts from the Clearlake Wal-Mart.



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

Ukiah Police continue to examine evidence and develop leads into identifying the driver of Drebaum's get-away vehicle used in the Ukiah robbery.

Drebaum was arrested and booked into the Lake County Jail for his arrest warrants and for robbery.

The assistance of the Clearlake Police Department was instrumental in solving this case so quickly, and the Ukiah Police Department would like to express its gratitude to the Clearlake Police Officers for their services during this investigation.

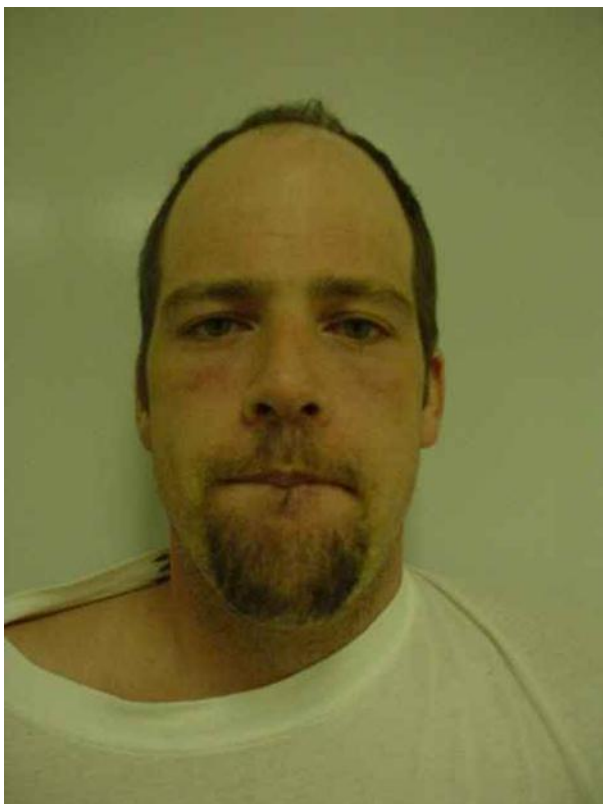




Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police



Prepared by Captain Justin Wyatt

300 Seminary Avenue | Ukiah, California 95482
Telephone: 463-6262 | Fax: (707) 462-6068 | www.ukiahpolice.com



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police