



## Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

**Chris Dewey**

Chief of Police

### **Press Release: Officer punched / suspect arrested**

**Ukiah Police Department case # 17-0818**

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On March 20<sup>th</sup> at about 7:53 am, UPD officers were conducting a security check of Wal-Mart's parking lot in the 1100 block of Airport Park Blvd., in response to continued complaints regarding illegal camping and associated problems with that activity. UPD officers contacted multiple subjects, who were in violation of the City of Ukiah's camping ordinance. Some of these subjects had to be woken up, one of which included a male subject identified as Paul Bittner, a 35 year old transient. As Bittner began to stand, the officer looked in the direction of a fellow officer, who was dealing with other individuals. Without warning and as the officer looked back, Bittner punched the UPD officer in the face. Bittner was quickly restrained and taken into custody for the assault. During his arrest Bittner threatened to assault any officer he spoke with and threatened to shoot the officer he had just punched. A records check revealed that Bittner was on Parole. Bittner's parole officer was contacted, who issued a Parole hold for him. Bittner was booked into county jail for battery on a police officer, threatening an officer and for the Parole hold. The officer received a minor injury from the assault and returned to work the same day.

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: [www.ukiahpolice.com](http://www.ukiahpolice.com).