Press Release

A21-1572

Arrests Made in “Road Rage” Assault

On July 3, 2021 deputies were dispatched to a report of a road rage incident with shots fired, near Spirit Lake Hwy and Si Town Road. Deputies arrived on scene and detained two suspects identified by multiple witnesses as having pointed pistols at two other subjects in a truck, with at least one suspect firing a shot.

The suspects, identified as Terry G. Middleton, 70, Napavine, and Jack L. Ritter, 63, Salkum, were reportedly seen driving on both sides of a vehicle driven by a Castle Rock man. Witnesses reported Middleton and Ritter were pointing pistols at the truck occupants and forced the vehicle to a stop. The occupants of the truck stated both suspects pointed their guns at them and threatened to kill them. Middleton reportedly pointed his pistol at the truck driver's head, then fired a shot near the vehicle during the confrontation.

Terry Middleton was booked into Cowlitz County Jail on charges of Assault 1st Degree - Two Counts, Felony Harassment - Two Counts and Drive-by Shooting. Jack Ritter was booked into Cowlitz County Jail on charges of Assault 1st Degree - Two Counts and Felony Harassment - Two Counts. Both firearms used in this incident were recovered and placed into evidence. No injuries were reported.

Troy Brightbill

Chief Criminal Deputy

Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office