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News Release

Suspect in attempted kidnapping arrested in Grand Island, Neb.

Castellanos-Mesa booked on warrant after hours-long overnight standoff

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (July 8, 2020) — The Arkansas City Police Department was notified Wednesday that an attempted kidnapping suspect had been arrested in Nebraska following a standoff.

Police initially were dispatched Monday afternoon for a report of a disturbance in a vehicle northbound from the intersection of 15th Street and Radio Lane.

At 4:38 p.m., Cowley County Emergency Communications received a call from a citizen who reported that a woman was injured and out of a vehicle in the area south of 252nd Road and 51st Road.

An officer arrived and learned a 27-year-old Arkansas City woman had been involved in the disturbance, after which a male suspect had fled in the woman's vehicle. The female victim was transported by the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department to South Central Kansas Medical Center.

Investigators later learned the suspect — identified as Leongrys Castellanos-Mesa, 35, of Grand Island, Nebraska — had entered the woman's van unlawfully and hid until he reportedly attacked her.

Cowley County District Court issued an arrest warrant Tuesday for Castellanos-Mesa on suspicion of aggravated battery, aggravated burglary of a motor vehicle, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery, battery-domestic violence, criminal threat, stalking and theft.

The initial incident took place within the city limits of Arkansas City and then moved north, out of the city limits, where the woman was able to attempt to flee her attacker. She suffered injuries in the attempt, but was successful in reaching safety. Castellanos-Mesa then allegedly fled the scene in her car.

Officers were able to identify the suspect quickly and placed notifications to other law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the suspect and the victim's vehicle, a silver Toyota Sienna minivan.

The Grand Island (Neb.) Police Department, along with other area agencies, was contacted in case Castellanos-Mesa had returned home.

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Shortly after midnight Wednesday, Grand Island police located a vehicle known to be owned by Castellanos-Mesa, parked in front of his residence.

They applied for a search warrant, which was executed at 1:26 a.m. Wednesday.

The Grand Island Police Department's Tactical Response Team (TRT) assisted at the scene after Castellanos-Mesa allegedly barricaded himself in his basement.

He eventually was taken into custody without further incident, prior to 5:23 a.m.

Castellanos-Mesa was transported to and booked into the Hall County (Neb.) Jail in lieu of \$250,000 through Cowley County District Court in Arkansas City. He remained in custody at the time of this report.

"The Arkansas City Police Department would like to thank the Grand Island Police Department, their Tactical Response Team, the Nebraska State Patrol and K-9 officer Cochise for all of their help, which ended with the locating and arrest of Leongrys Castellanos-Mesa," said Police Chief Dan Ward.

A defendant's guilt or innocence is to be determined by a court of law.

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