



Thomas Corning
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE: UPD CASE #25-1927

Date: 02/17/26

Location: Riverside Park Ukiah, Ca 95482

Victims: 34-year-old female Ukiah resident.
17-year-old female Willits resident.

Suspects: Bruce K. Edwards, 38-year-old resident of Willits.

Violations: 220 PC- Sexual Assault (Felony.)
243.4(A) PC- Sexual Battery by Force (Felony.)
289(A)(1) PC- Sexual Penetration with a Foreign Object (Felony.)
647(J)(3) PC- Unauthorized Recording for Sexual Gratification (Misdemeanor.)

On September 1st of 2025 the Ukiah Police Department's Investigative Unit began an investigation into a sexual assault after a female reported that she had been lured into the vehicle of a male posing as an Uber driver. The 34-year-old female victim, a resident of Ukiah, was walking home after swimming at the Russian River when a vehicle pulled up next to her and offered her a ride. The female believed that the vehicle was an Uber that had been ordered for her by her husband, who had left the river earlier and already returned home. Once inside the vehicle, the male driver identified himself as "Bruce," and claimed to be an Uber driver.

The male began driving in the direction of the female's home, but she noticed that they had driven passed her street. The female asked him to turn around, but the driver ignored her and drove to the Riverside Park at the east end of Gobbi Street. Once at the park the male began sexually assaulting the female, ripping her dress, and placing his mouth and hands on her breasts. The female victim yelled at the male to stop but he continued to forcefully attempt sexual contact with the victim. The female was eventually able to free herself and get out of the vehicle. The female ran home where she reported what had happened to her husband and contacted law enforcement. The female was transported by ambulance to the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Emergency Room where she was treated for minor injuries and underwent a sexual assault forensic examination.

The female was not familiar with the suspect, who had only identified himself as "Bruce," and was described as a white male adult with red hair and a ginger beard. UPD Detectives looked for security video or any



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witness that might have information that would assist with the investigation but were not able to develop any further investigative leads.

In late January the results of the sexual forensic exam of the victim were returned from the California Department of Justice, and the report contained a DNA match from a swab taken from the female's body. The DNA was linked to a Bruce Edwards of Willits, who was confirmed to be a white male adult with red hair and a ginger beard.

UPD Detectives launched an investigation into Edwards, and obtained a search warrant for his residence, his vehicle, his electronic devices, and a comparison DNA sample. On February 11th UPD Detectives located and detained Edwards in Ukiah. During a search of Edwards' cell phone pursuant to the warrant, detectives located numerous videos that appeared to be secret recordings of an unclothed young female. Edwards admitted to secretly video recording the minor for his own sexual gratification, who was the daughter of his adult roommate. Edwards also provided information on the sexual assault from Riverside Park, and was placed under arrest for sexual assault, sexual battery by force, sexual penetration with a foreign object, and unauthorized recording for sexual gratification.

The Ukiah Police Department remains committed to keeping the residents of Ukiah safe and preventing violent crime in our community. The Ukiah Police Department would like to thank the California Department of Justice and the staff members of the Adventist Health Ukiah Emergency Room for their assistance with this investigation. For updates about crime in your neighborhood, residents can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle link on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.