

VALLEY CITY

POLICE

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PRESS RELEASE

Incident: Terrorizing, Kidnap, and Burglary
Case Number: VC-16-00624, VC-16-00625
Date: 08-22-16
Author: Chief Fred J. Thompson

On 08-21-16, at approximately 1800 hours, VCPD officers responded to 605 4th Avenue SW, Valley City, ND, reference of a report of a male who had threatened another person with a gun. Officers also were advised of an additional incident which had occurred at 258 College Street SW, Valley City, ND, shortly before the first incident was reported.

The initial investigation revealed that Johannes Brannan, age 23, of Finley, ND, and Drew Brant Gullicks, age 22, of Valley City, ND, went to the 4th Avenue SW address, which was observed by the occupant, Christian Swenson, age 20. Swenson went to, and opened the front door to observe a gun pointed at his face. Swenson stated that he knew the suspects as Brannan and Gullicks. Swenson was forced back into the residence at gunpoint by Brannan and Gullicks then took Swenson's girlfriend into another room.

Brannan then questioned Swenson as to the whereabouts of a female juvenile. Swenson stated that he did know the female. Swenson then attempted to defend himself and got into a physical struggle over the firearm. During the struggle Swenson spilled a pot of boiling water from the stove onto Brannan. Gullicks then came back from the other room, got behind Swenson, and placed him in a chokehold until he was briefly unconscious. Both Brannan and Gullicks then made remarks about killing Swenson. Brannan and Gullicks then left the Swenson residence not being able to find the female.

Brannan and Gullicks then went to 605 4th Avenue SW where they contacted victim Shawn Albert Bear, age 22, of Valley City, ND. Once there Brannan and Gullicks pounded on the front door until they gained entry. When Bear opened the door he was also saw a gun pointed at him. Again, Brannan and Gullicks make repeated threats against Bear and his girlfriend, Oxanna Katherine Skaufel, age 20, of Valley City, ND, at the residence while asking them about the female juvenile.

Skaufel was then permitted to leave that location to go and find the juvenile female. Skaufel was able to locate the female nearby and bring her back to the 4th Avenue SW location where Brannan and Gullicks were waiting. Brannan and Gullicks then left the area with the juvenile female.

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Brannan and Gullicks then went to the Tesoro Gas Station, 1020 8th Avenue SW, Valley City, ND. While at the location the female juvenile attempted to get away from Brannan and Gullicks, as she later advised the PD that she felt that she was being guarded and not free to leave. The juvenile was then able to leave with another person and was able to eventually escape from Brannan and Gullicks. The juvenile then responded to the VCPD station.

VCPD Sgt. Thibert then contacted the Steele County Sheriff's Office and advised them of the events and of the belief that Brannan and Gullicks, were on the way to Finley, ND. The Steele County Sheriff's Office advised that they would look for the suspects. The Steele County Sheriff's Office then located Brannan and Gullicks and took them into custody. The weapon used in the threats was recovered and seized as evidence.

Brannan and Gullicks were then transported to the Barnes County Corrections Center, with the assistance of the Barnes County Sheriff's Office, and charged with Terrorizing, Kidnapping, and Burglary, with additional charges expected.

This investigation is continuing and the Valley City Police Department is requesting that anyone with any information on this case to contact us at (701) 845-3110.