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MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: March 27, 2019	CONTACT: Deputy Chief Matt Rokus
TIME: 10:30 a.m.	PHONE: 715-839-4979
# PAGES: 1	EMAIL: Matt.Rokus@eauclairewi.gov
SUBJECT: Missing Juvenile (19PD06518)	 @EauClairePD  @EauClairePD  @EauClairePD

On March 25, 2019 at 12:36 p.m. the Eau Claire Police Department was notified a 17 year-old male was at Hobby Lobby, 4606 Golf Rd, and told an employee he had been abducted. The juvenile was visibly shaking and upset. The juvenile victim stated he had just escaped and the two suspects were in the Oakwood Mall parking lot. The juvenile provided a description of the two suspects and their vehicle. Several Eau Claire Police Officers responded to this area. The juvenile was immediately contacted by Officers in order to insure his safety. Officers searched the parking lot and located the two male suspects and their vehicle.

The two suspects were identified as Tyler J. Brand, dob 03/15/1994 and Khvyen Z. Vhasenglu, dob 08/17/1982.

The initial investigation determined the juvenile had previously known Brand after meeting him through an online social-networking application. The juvenile met with Brand on March 21, 2019 in Oshkosh, WI and remained with him for several days. During this time the victim told Brand he wanted to leave and return home. The juvenile was not allowed to leave. This juvenile was reported as missing by a parent in Oshkosh, WI on March 22, 2019.

Brand remained in the Fox Valley area for several days with the juvenile. At one point Brand transported the juvenile to Menasha, WI. Brand also met with Vhasenglu in Menasha. Brand and Vhasenglu told the juvenile they intended to take him to Menomonie, WI. The juvenile was not allowed to leave the company of Brand and Vhasenglu. While traveling, Brand and Vhasenglu stopped in Eau Claire. It is at that time the juvenile escaped from Brand and Vhasenglu.

Tyler Brand was arrested by Eau Claire Police for a felony warrant issued by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Brand was also arrested for Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, Possession of Psilocybin, Possession of THC and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Brand is a registered sex offender in the State of Wisconsin.

Khyven Vhasenglu was arrested by Eau Claire Police for Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, Possession of Psilocybin, Possesion with Intent to Deliver Schedule IV Drugs and Possession of THC. Both Vhasenglu and Brand are scheduled to make initial appearances in Eau Claire County Court on March 27, 2019.

The juvenile was reunited with his parents on March 25, 2019. Victim support services are being facilitated by the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office.

The investigation into this matter is active and ongoing. The Eau Claire Police Department is working with the Oshkosh Police Department and the Menasha Police Department on the investigation. The Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation is providing assistance.

Media inquiries should be directed to:

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