

Kidnap ordeal ends, police nab fugitive

By Kyle Spurr
EO Media Group

Russell Wayne Deviney, the Everett, Wash., man accused of kidnapping a 15-year-old California girl Saturday, was caught Thursday just outside Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach Police and FBI agents arrested Deviney, 48, at about 11:15 a.m.

He was found behind a locked gate in a privately owned wooded area south of Cannon Beach.

A passer-by saw Deviney and called the Cannon Beach Police Department.

When Deviney was asked his name, he simply said, "I'm the guy you're looking for."

Deviney is being charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree rape, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse.

A nationwide felony warrant had been issued out of Clatsop County Circuit Court for his arrest.

"We cannot go into specific details about the information we've obtained during our investigation, but I think the charges speak for themselves," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said.



Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston speaks at a press conference regarding the arrest of Russell Deviney Thursday. Deviney was taken into custody Thursday, May 14.

Deviney allegedly kidnapped the girl on Saturday in Sanger, Calif. He left the girl and his 2004 Nissan Pickup at McDonald's in Astoria Monday evening.

The girl was later reunited with her family, who drove up from their home in Sanger. Police said she is in good health.

According to court documents, the girl had been chatting on the social media application Instagram with Deviney, who she believed was an 18-year-old named James Russell, or "JR." She

told investigators she became upset with her mother on Friday and shared her feelings with "JR."

"JR" suggested they go on a one-day vacation, court records state. She snuck out that night with her overnight bag and went to meet "JR." When she arrived, Deviney was wearing a hood, so she could not see his face, but he eventually admitted he was twice her age.

"Once she realized the person she was meeting actually was a 48-year-old man, she was already in the

vehicle and under Deviney's control," Halverson said. The girl told Deviney she wanted to go home. Court record reveal Deviney then took her cellphone — removing the SIM card that tracks location — and told her they were going to Oregon. The girl told investigators they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and stopped at some point at a Chevron, a Walmart, Lincoln Beach and visited Long Beach, Wash.

Deviney allegedly sexually assaulted the girl at a rest area, where a sign read, "His-



Russell Deviney

tory of Oregon," according to court documents.

At some point during their travels, court documents show, the girl was able to get her SIM card back and make brief contact with her mother.

The girl's mother told a Fresno, Calif., news outlet she received a text message from her daughter's phone on Sunday. The message said the girl was scared, did not know where she was, and wanted to come home soon. The latest text message from the girl's phone came from Seattle or along the Oregon-Washington border, according to the report.

While returning to Oregon from Washington, the girl told investigators, Deviney received a phone call from the police Monday. He then parked at the McDonald's in Astoria and told her he was going to obtain a car part. However, court documents state, he then collect-

ed his belongings, including a sleeping bag, and fled. The girl then entered the McDonald's.

Before his arrest, Deviney was reportedly spotted at the U Street Pub in Seaside and the Seaside Outlet Mall earlier Thursday.

"There is no indication Astoria was their intended destination," Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said.

Johnston encourages parents to talk to their children about online safety issues and to monitor how their kids use the Internet, social media and cellular devices.

If any parent needs help, Johnston said, a good resource is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website www.missingkids.com

"This case highlights the benefits and the dangers of social media. The victim in this case did not have any way to verify the identity of the person she had been corresponding with," Johnston said. "However, once she was recovered, the Astoria Police Department was able to use social media effectively to communicate with the public."

Deviney is expected to be arraigned on the charges today in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

NCLC offers guided outings for the public

North Coast Land Conservancy is offering a series of 20 guided outings to the public beginning in early June and continuing through September.

Most outings take place between Warrenton and Manzanita, plus one north of Pacific City and another south of Depoe Bay. They include two wildflower walks — on a seashore cliff and in a rare type of coastal wetland — and a foraging expedition seeking wild edibles. Two hikes at Oswald West State Park will explore the ecological connections between the shoreline and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve offshore. Birding and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On the outing at Neacoxie Forest Habitat Reserve, Gearhart. Photo courtesy of North Coast Land Conservancy.

geology walks are planned at the National Park Service's Yeon Property north of Gearhart, and a vigorous hike will lead participants up Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head.

Summer on the Land outings are led by expert staff and volunteer guides and most are two hours in length. All outings are free, but participants must

sign up in advance to help NCLC keep groups small. This year registration is being staggered by month: registration for June events is open now, and registration for July events opens in the first week of June. Visit North Coast Land Conservancy's website, NCLCtrust.org/on-the-land, for details or to register. Those who wish to be notified exactly when registration is starting for subsequent months may join the NCLC e-mail list via the website.

For more information on the conservancy, visit NCLCtrust.org.

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