



BRAD THURMAN, SHERIFF

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PRESS RELEASE

A26-31

KIDNAPPING-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARREST

On January 1, 2026, the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office received a report of a domestic violence incident that occurred on December 31, 2025. The incident reportedly began with a domestic dispute at a residence in the 200 block of Green Mountain Ln, Kalama. Deputies were advised that during a New Year's Eve gathering at this location, 23-year-old resident Hunter Scott Minton became intoxicated and belligerent. Minton's girlfriend and another female subject at the residence hid in a bathroom during the dispute, out of fear for their safety.

Minton's girlfriend told deputies she attempted to leave, but Minton forcibly pulled her out of her vehicle against her will. She was then able to get Minton to leave with her in the vehicle. About five minutes after driving away from the residence, Minton reportedly pulled a handgun from his waistband and threatened to kill himself if she did not let him drive. Minton allegedly threatened to harm his girlfriend if she contacted law enforcement. Based on Minton's intoxication and threats while armed with a firearm, the victim did not feel free to leave and felt her life was in imminent danger.

The victim then allowed Minton to drive the vehicle, and he proceeded to Woodland. At one point, Minton reportedly exited the vehicle and made threats to return home and kill his whole family. Deputies obtained surveillance videos from Woodland businesses, confirming the timeline reported by the victim. One employee recalled seeing Minton behaving erratically and told deputies the victim appeared to be in distress. The victim eventually dropped Minton off at a hotel in Vancouver. Deputies noted the victim had visible bruises, consistent with her report. Deputies were unable to locate Minton on January 1st, but family members confirmed he carried a .45-caliber pistol.

On January 6, 2026, deputies located Minton at his residence on Green Mountain Ln and took him into custody. Deputies served a search warrant and recovered a .45-caliber pistol matching the description given by the victim.



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Hunter Minton was booked into Cowlitz County Jail on charges of Kidnapping 2nd Degree, Taking a Motor Vehicle Without Permission 2nd Degree, Felony Harassment, Interfering with Domestic Violence Reporting, Assault 4th Degree, and Reckless Endangerment – all Domestic Violence charges.

Troy Brightbill
Chief Criminal Deputy
Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office