

Beating of Juvenile Girl May Close Power Lines to Mud Bogging

By Terry Witt
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Big mud truck owners who love to play and compete in the area known as the Power Lines north of Bronson will lose access to the area in the near future in the wake of a juvenile girl being severely beaten on the property on April 7.

Levy County Sheriff's Lt. Scott Tummond said the sheriff's office is contacting private property owners in the area to gain their cooperation in posting the properties as no trespassing areas. When landowners agree to bar future mud bogging in the area, Tummond said the sheriff's office will first issue warnings if the big trucks return to the area. Repeat offenders will be arrested for returning to the property.

"Several property owners have expressed that they don't want those activities out there," Tummond said.

A mud bog competition had been planned on the property in late April but Tummond said the event never took place.

Patricia Lynn Miller, 18, of Morriston has been released from jail on a reduced bond. She is charged with felony battery on a juvenile. She was originally held on \$100,000 bond but requested a bond reduction hearing. Circuit Judge William Davis reduced bond to \$10,000. The juvenile victim suffered numerous injuries including a swollen right eye, numerous contusions to the back of the head and side of the face, scratches and cuts on her legs and a broken nose resulting from three separate attacks, according to the arrest report. The victim underwent surgery on the injuries to her nose.

The report said Miller accused the victim of throwing rocks at a friend's truck and told her she needed to apologize. The victim said she was grabbed by the arms and marched over to the truck owner. While walking to the truck the victim said she was pushed. When she tried to run away she was attacked.

Reports said the victim was punched in the face and thrown to the ground. Miller began punching her. Her hair was pulled and she was punched in the face and back of the head numerous times. While on the ground she was kned in the face causing her nose to break. The victim blacked out from the blow. An unknown person pulled the attackers off her and managed to get the victim to safety.

Tummond said investigators interviewed a second suspect in the case but decided not to file charges. The second person wasn't named in the arrest report. Tummond said he could release the name, but she is a witness in the case and he is concerned about releasing her name. She is identified in the report only as Heather.

Miller told investigators she punched the victim in the mouth and grabbed her by the hair before slinging her in the water. She said people began yelling at her that the victim was coming out of the water and walking in her direction. Miller told investigators she grabbed the victim by the hair and threw her down and began punching her again in the head and face, the arrest report said. Miller said she kned the victim in the face twice and she blacked out. Someone pulled her off when she started to punch the victim again.

Miller turned 18 on March 11. The age of the victim wasn't identified in the arrest report but she was a teenager.

Tummond said the Power lines is located on private property and has been a favorite spot for mud boggers for years, but he said younger people are using the area now and alcohol is being consumed, often by underage persons. The underage drinking is becoming a problem.

“People have been going out there for years. We’ve investigated incidents in the past, but it appears the people going out there are younger. Violence has increased. We’re seeing repeats of underage drinking,” Tummond said.

He added that it’s just a matter of time before something else happens. The sheriff’s office understands that it’s not going to take long before there’s more violence “and that’s not what we want.”

Tummond said heread Facebook comments that younger people are using the Power Lines and ruining it for everyone else.

“Since these young kids began showing up its spoiled for all,” he said.