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Police arrest 2 men who allegedly arranged to purchase Oxycontin

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The State Patrol's SWAT team arrested two men at the Union Mills Grocery on Pacific Avenue about 5 p.m. Thursday after the men had arranged to purchase 300 Oxycontin pills from an undercover detective with \$9,000 cash, detectives said.

Scott Uchida, 25, also known as "Crazy;" and Brandon Westhoff, 18, were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to deliver a controlled substance, according to detectives with the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force.

After the arrests, detectives found a large amount of cash and pieces of dismantled guns in an unlocked safe at a home on 12th Avenue Northeast where Uchida was staying.

On Wednesday night, an undercover detective met with Uchida and Westhoff at a bar, where Uchida agreed to purchase the 300 Oxycontin pills from the detective.

Narcotics Task Force Detectives Matt Renschler and Ken Lundquist waited in an unmarked car for most of Thursday afternoon, as the undercover detective in another car haggled with Uchida on a cellphone about where they would meet to conduct the transaction.

Because detectives thought Uchida might have been carrying a firearm, members of the State Patrol SWAT team stood by as the location for the transaction was chosen.

Renschler and Lundquist said that Uchida had told their undercover detective that he was looking for a local source who could supply him with Oxycontin on a regular basis. The two agreed to conduct the sale that night. The undercover detective was wearing a wire and the conversation was recorded.

Lundquist said the sale of Oxycontin is becoming increasingly popular in Thurston County. The medication is legally prescribed to relieve pain for cancer patients and others, but is illegally diverted to addicts who crush it, snort it or smoke it.

"There's such a market that's developing with Oxycontin, it's incredible," Lundquist said.

On Thursday afternoon, narcotics detectives became suspicious when Uchida became picky about the location of the Oxycontin purchase. The lieutenant and sergeant of the task force then decided that they would not allow the undercover detective, who was joined by a colleague in his car, to conduct the sale.

Lundquist said Uchida's requests Thursday to change the location of the drug sale could mean that Uchida wanted to steal the Oxycontin pills and would try to rob the undercover detective.

"Our concern right now is a rip-off," Renschler said.

So after Uchida and the undercover detective agreed upon a new location for the Oxycontin sale, the Union Mills Grocery, it was decided that the State Patrol's SWAT team would move in and make the arrests as soon as Uchida parked his car there — to keep the undercover detectives out of harm's way.

"We're not going to do anything that puts anybody in danger," Lundquist said.

During the bust, members of the State Patrol's SWAT team swooped in, with rifles pointed at the suspects, and they were taken into custody without incident.

After Thursday's bust, Uchida's white Chrysler was towed away and detectives said they would get a search warrant to look inside the trunk. Renschler said he'd have the search warrant by this morning. Then detectives went to two addresses where Uchida might reside. At the 12th Avenue address, detectives found firearms and cash inside the unlocked safe.

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