

Columbia County Sheriff's Deputies today added charges of attempted murder to the list of offenses they have against the man taken into custody early Saturday morning after firing several shots from a semi-automatic pistol late Friday night

A Circuit Court Judge set the Security Release amount at \$150,000 for Peter Schwert, 38, after deputies arrested the Scappoose-area man earlier Saturday morning.

Charges of 2 counts of Attempted Murder were added to the booking report, after investigators determined some of the shots fired from Schwert's handgun were aimed at two individuals, one a minor.

No one was injured in the late-night dispute that began when Schwert -- a regular customer at Mark's On the Water (in the Columbia Channel) -- was cut off from drinks in the bar at the restaurant. A verbal dispute ensued, and Schwert was escorted off the property. The suspect, however, returned a short time later and reportedly began firing rounds from his hand gun.

Investigators believe Schwert was intoxicated at the time he returned to the restaurant armed with a silver, semi-automatic pistol. Schwert reportedly confronted employees of the restaurant as they were leaving for the night, after the restaurant had closed. He pointed the gun at one of the employees and fired at least two shots at the employee and his son (a 14-year-old boy who also works at the restaurant), as the two drove away from the scene.

Additional rounds were also fired. Investigators believe at least 8 rounds were fired from the gun. Deputies are continuing to investigate the incident.

Schwert is lodged in the Columbia County Jail on two counts of Attempted Murder, two counts of Menacing, two counts of Pointing a Firearm at Another, four counts of Unlawful Use of a Weapon, four counts of Recklessly Endangering Another, and one count of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm.