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Pit bull scares away intruder, boy says

Larimer deputies search for man who tried to snatch child

By **John C. Ensslin**, Rocky Mountain News
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LAPORTE - Wayne Myers says a stranger tried to abduct his 9-year-old son from the family's backyard Monday night.

Destiny, the family's 2-year-old tan and white red-nosed pit bull, barked and scared the intruder away, the boy told Larimer County sheriff's investigators.

The reported abduction attempt occurred about 7:20 p.m. Monday in the 3000 block of West Laporte Avenue.

Police released a composite sketch Tuesday of a suspect, based upon descriptions supplied by Myers and his son. The father believes he saw a stranger in the area earlier in the evening who matched the description his son gave.

"We're looking at all the registered sex offenders in the neighborhood," said Eloise B. Campanella, spokeswoman for the Larimer County sheriff. "We are taking this seriously."

Deputies with canines searched the area but found no tracks. Deputies also canvassed the neighborhood but obtained no useful leads.

Myers said he was in his front yard when the incident happened. His wife was in the kitchen cooking dinner with their back door open. Their 9-year-old son was in the backyard playing with his 5-year-old brother.

The boy said the stranger came out of the weeds, grabbed him by the shoulder and tried to pull him over the fence before the dog intervened.

Myers, said he bought Destiny for \$200 for protection after his son was sexually molested about two years ago. The suspect in that case, however, is currently in jail, Myers said.

Prior to Monday's incident, Myers said his family had been planning to move to Arkansas. But, for now, that plan is on hold until someone is arrested, he said.

"I'm not leaving with this guy going around," Myers said. "I'm not going to allow somebody to chase me out of my own town."

The boy described a white male in his mid-30s, balding with brown hair around his ears, last seen wearing a blue T-shirt and blue jean shorts. He may also have a thin moustache.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Larimer County sheriff's dispatch center at 970-416-1985 or an investigator at 970-498-5167.

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