

Breaking News

Pullman police say sexual assault report was false

August 25, 2009, 1:21 pm

Police have determined that a woman who claimed to have been sexually assaulted Monday evening on the Washington State University campus had provided a false report.

The college freshman reported that at about 8 p.m. a man had fondled her before she was able to fight him off and escape but through further investigation this morning, WSU Lt. Steve Hansen said police were able to determine the woman had lied.

“The evidence we had did not coincide with the story we were being told ... and she recanted what she’d said,” he said.

Hansen said the woman could potentially face charges for lying to police, but added that “for now, our focus is getting her some help and support.”

It’s the third such report in a week. Women also reported assaults early Monday and last Wednesday evening. The assailant in the past two cases is described as a white man, about 5-foot-9 with a stocky build and Hansen said police have increased their foot patrols of the area.

Hansen added that several people have called with further information about the suspect, but the leads “didn’t pan out.”

WSU police have sent e-mail reminders to students to be aware of their surroundings, not walk alone and stay in well-lit areas. Anyone with information about the assaults is encouraged to call the WSUPD at (509) 335-8548, or 911 if it’s an emergency.