

## **Holland Police report License Plate Reader (LPR) in New Mexico captures images of Emelene VanDyke's vehicle**

**Press release date:** 2013-03-10

**March 10, 2013**

**TO:** Area News Media

**FROM:** Captain Jack Dykstra, Holland Department of Public Safety Public Information Officer

**REF:** Missing Person – Emelene Joy VanDyke, 36 year old female

**March 10, 2013 2135 hours – UPDATED INFORMATION**

Holland Police were advised this afternoon by the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) that a vehicle matching the plate number entered into a national database had been scanned by a stationary unmanned license plate reader (LPR) on US-70 near Alamogordo, New Mexico at 1552 hrs this afternoon.

Law enforcement agencies in that region and the surrounding states was notified to locate and check well being of the occupants of the vehicle however at this time the vehicle has not been located.

Since that information was obtained a request for photos to confirm the plate was on Emelene VanDyke's vehicle, the Hyundai Accent and police obtained those photos. They are not being released at this time however initial indications are that the vehicle in fact the Hyundai Accent and the white female driving appears to resemble Emelene VanDyke. It also appears that she is alone in the vehicle.

Further efforts to locate Emelene will be increased and focused on this area with the hopes of reuniting her with her family. Further information will be released later as information develops. Police have notified Emelene VanDyke's family of this documented sighting.

**March 4, 2013 1430 hours – UPDATED INFORMATION**

Detectives conducted several search warrants for various records and locations and conducted several interviews to determine what led up to the disappearance of Emelene VanDyke.

Investigators determined that several items associated with camping are missing from Emelene's home including a tent, sleeping bag and other miscellaneous camping gear. Through debit card transactions made before her disappearance detectives found she had purchased additional items that support she may have been planning to go camping.

Since the date Emelene VanDyke left there have been no sightings or locations where Emelene was seen. Police are reviewing past history and again asking for the public to contact us if they have seen her or have any additional information on where she might be. There is still no known connection or relationship between Fred Byrne's disappearance and Emelene VanDyke's either other than that they occurred within two days of each other in the Holland area.

2-22-13 1229 hrs - Holland Department of Public Safety is asking the public for help in locating 36 year old Holland woman Emelene Joy VanDyke. Emelene has been missing from her home in the 500 block of College Avenue in Holland since leaving for an apparent "retreat", possibly in the Traverse City area on the weekend after February 14, 2013.

Emelene was last seen by her neighbor and last heard from after sending a text message at approximately 6 p.m. on February 14 after she purchased a new car from a local car dealership and withdrew a significant amount of

money from her bank.

In all surveillance photos reviewed Emelene appears to be alone and there was no indication from anyone that spoke to her that she was under any duress or acting suspicious.

Investigators are concerned about her well being because her cell phone and debit card has not been used since the 14th of February. She had taken scheduled time off from her work and was due back in to come work on the February 19th but she did not show up. Emelene's employer contacted her ex husband, who has legal custody of her 3 children, to report that she did not come into work which is very unusual. Emelene's ex-husband reported her immediately as missing to police on February 19th.

Emelene was last seen driving the new car she purchased a gray, 4D, 2013 Hyundai Accent (very similar vehicle photo attached) bearing Michigan license plate CGE1862. Emelene has sandy blonde hair and hazel colored eyes is approximately 5' 7" in height and approximately 200 lbs. (see photo attached)

Anyone who has information about this case is urged to contact the Holland Department of Public Safety at (616) 355-1100 or the detectives at 355-1150. Persons also may email investigators at [policetips@cityofholland.com](mailto:policetips@cityofholland.com). For persons wishing to remain anonymous they may call Silent Observer at 1-877-887-4536 or they may visit the SO website at <http://mosotips.com> to submit an e-tip.

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