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Man accused of attacking fiancée in campground in jail

By JODI HAUSEN, Chronicle Staff Writer

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Gallatin County authorities arrested but have been unable to question a man accused of hitting and strangling his fiancée on Sunday because he has been "very belligerent and uncooperative with officers," according to court documents.

Lloyd Hardin McNeil, 31, of San Diego, was arrested Tuesday evening.

According to the court documents, a man and his fiancée got into a fight at their Hyalite Canyon campsite Sunday. When the woman tried to pack up to leave, the man pulled her back into their tent and would not let her go.

She told investigators that he choked her and slapped her repeatedly in the face. He also reportedly hit her with a metal flashlight.

On Tuesday, the man took his fiancée out to lunch and apologized, saying "he seemed to just black out or something," investigators reported.

The couple got into another argument on the way back up Hyalite Canyon Road and the woman said the man tried to prevent her from getting out of the car.

Eventually, she jumped out of the vehicle, stopped three bikers coming down the road and asked them for help, the court documents state.

Investigators said they photographed the woman's bruised face, neck, arms and hip. She also had black eyes and said a doctor had told her she may have a fractured cheekbone.

McNeil was subsequently arrested and charged with assault with a weapon, partner family member assault and unlawful restraint. He is being held on \$20,000 bond in the Gallatin County jail.

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