



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey

Chief of Police

Press Release: Report of robbery turns into high speed pursuit and arrest.

UPD case # 17-1621

On June 6th at about 4pm, UPD officers heard via radio of a robbery that occurred in the Willits area. The suspects had fled in a vehicle and one was reported to have a handgun. While looking for the suspect's vehicle, a UPD unit located it headed southbound on highway 101. Officers attempted to perform a traffic stop on the vehicle in the Hopland area. The driver failed to stop and led UPD officers on a high speed pursuit, southbound on highway 101 and into Sonoma County. UPD had requested the assistance from surrounding agencies along with CHP who at a point in the pursuit took the lead. The pursuit ended on highway 101, when the suspect's vehicle crashed near Old Redwood Highway and both suspects fled on foot. The suspects were soon apprehended with the assistance of CHP, Sonoma County SO, Healdsburg PD and Cloverdale PD. The driver was identified as Donovan Saari age 27 out of Sacramento and passenger Rashard Lafrance age 25 out of Florida. Saari was placed under arrest for felony evading and resisting arrest. Lafrance was placed under arrest for resisting arrest. No handgun was located, but ammunition and other evidence inside the vehicle that was seized. Lafrance and Saari were transported back to UPD, where a Willits PD Officer dealt with the robbery portion of the case. Saari was booked into county jail for robbery, false imprisonment, felony evading, and resisting arrest. Lafrance was booked into county jail for robbery, false imprisonment, and resisting arrest.

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.