



"Safety, Professionalism & Community Service"

Justin Wyatt
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE – CASE # 21-0341

Date: March 1, 2021

Location: 709 N. State St., Ukiah

Suspect: Eryka Smith (28-year-old female of Willits)

Victim: 21-year-old male of Ukiah

Violations: 10851(a) PC: Vehicle theft (Felony)

On March 1, 2021 at approximately 9:39 AM, UPD Dispatch received a report of a vehicle that had just been stolen from in front of 709 N. State St. An Officer responded to contact the victim while other Officers began checking the area for the vehicle. Officers learned the victim left his vehicle running, parked in front of the business and went inside the business to conduct a brief transaction. The victim believed he locked the vehicle. Upon exiting the business, he saw the vehicle was gone. A BOLO (Be On the Look Out) for the stolen vehicle was broadcast to surrounding law enforcement agencies.

Utilizing a cellphone app the location of the vehicle was learned. The vehicle's location information was provided to Lake County area CHP Officers, as the vehicle appeared to be traveling eastbound on Highway 175.

A Lake County area CHP Officer located the stolen vehicle traveling eastbound on Highway 29, toward Kelseyville and attempted to conduct an enforcement stop on the vehicle. The vehicle's driver failed to yield and a vehicle pursuit ensued at a high rate of speed. During the pursuit, CHP deployed a "spike strip" (tire deflation device) as the vehicle passed the CHP substation located in Kelseyville. The vehicle continued eastbound and subsequently struck a guardrail and overturned, coming to rest in a construction zone. Eryka Smith was found to be the driver of the vehicle. She sustained injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Due to her medical condition, she was issued a citation to appear in court for violations of 10851(a) CVC – Vehicle theft, 2800.2(a) CVC – Reckless evading, 487a PC -Grand theft and 12500(a) CVC – Unlicensed driver by CHP. Her canine was housed at a local animal shelter. Smith was subsequently released from the hospital.



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This was the second time Smith had been contacted in a stolen vehicle within the past three days. UPD Officers arrested Smith for 496d(a) PC – Possession of a stolen vehicle on 02-27-21.

UPD would like to thank the CHP for their assistance in apprehending Smith.

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

Prepared by: UPD Operations Lieutenant Andy Phillips