

Monday pursuit leaves damage, one jailed

(KAIR)--One person is in custody following a high speed pursuit through Atchison Monday afternoon that left two vehicles damaged but no injuries.

Atchison Police Chief Mike Wilson told MSC News it began following the report of a stolen pickup truck at an Atchison convenience store shortly before 2:00.

“We were dispatched to Quick Stop East, at 6th and U.S. 59, where it was reported to us that a 2003 Ford 150 pickup truck had just been stolen as a customer had parked outside, went into the store.”

The stolen truck was quickly spotted, and that's when the pursuit began. “Within a few minutes, we had an officer spot that vehicle in the south area of town, adjacent to Jackson Park, on south 6th Street,” Wilson said. “The vehicle turned around, went northbound, and then fled from the officer. Then it began going in different directions, on different streets, which took it as far north as 4th and M Street. It had crossed downtown after going northbound on the 5th Street viaduct. It drove through a residential area in the northern part of the city, eventually turning southbound.”

Officers managed to flatten tires on the truck, but the driver refused to stop. “Just north of downtown, in the area of 4th and Santa Fe, we had an officer deploy stop-sticks,” Wilson said. “The vehicle did strike those stop-sticks, disabling several tires. However, it continued from that point in a westerly direction on Santa Fe Street, eventually going clear to 17th Street, where the vehicle became disabled, lodged into an embankment in front of a residence at 17th and Santa Fe.”

The driver, according to Wilson, attempted to flee on foot, but was quickly stopped through the use of an officer's taser. “In addition to this very dangerous eluding that he did, once he jumped out of the vehicle and ran, there were neighbors in their yards, adjacent to where this truck was disabled. He was running towards them, the officers were in foot pursuit, and he was tased to get him into custody. EMS did respond to the scene and examined him, and found him to be ok then in the end.”

The driver is identified as 28-year-old Justin Walsh-Peterson.

Wilson said the Atchison resident, who is formerly of Saint Joseph, Missouri, is alleged to have crashed into two parked vehicles at 4th and Santa Fe Street, narrowly missing several others along the pursuit path.

Walsh-Peterson faces numerous charges, some in connection with him having

allegedly attempted to run down police during the pursuit. “Charges include theft, felony eluding, aggravated assault on law enforcement officers, and resisting arrest. He is charged among these charges with aggravated assault because there's at least three occasions he attempted to strike officers as he was in the vehicle, as he was attempting to elude.”

Following his arrest, Walsh-Peterson was booked into the Atchison County Jail.

Many Signals Communications