

Hiawatha man arrested after chase in stolen vehicle

**(KNZA)--A Hiawatha man was arrested Wednesday afternoon after allegedly leading authorities on a chase in a stolen vehicle.**

**According to a release from Brown County Sheriff John Merchant, 37-year-old Brandon Sweet was arrested on multiple charges following the about 30 mile chase.**

**Merchant said the Sheriff's dispatch received a stolen vehicle report at about 1:45 from the eastern part of the county. It was reported that a male suspect had stolen a 2000 white Ford pickup truck.**

**A short time later, the Sheriff's Department received information from the department's former chaplain who kept the vehicle in sight giving directions until a deputy could intercept the vehicle.**

**When the deputy located the stolen vehicle, a chase ensued. The chase went through Willis, north on U.S. 73 and then eastbound on U.S. 36 Highway. The vehicle struck a bridge abutment, causing Sweet to lose control. The vehicle ended in the ditch north of the highway, just east of the Mulberry exit.**

**Merchant said Sweet was arrested on charges of felony theft, 3 counts of aggravated assault, 3 counts of avoiding spike strips, driving while suspended, cancelled or revoked and no seat belt. He was booked into the Brown County Jail.**

**Assisting were the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kickapoo Police Department, Sac and Fox Police Department, Hiawatha Police Department and Nemaha County Sheriff's Department.**