EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: October 07, 2009 TIME: 5:44 PM

AUTHORITY: Sgt. Carl Duncan PHONE 715-839-2972

INCIDENT: OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE W/O OWNERS CONSENT
KNOWINGLY FLEE OFFICER

Eau Claire Sheriff's deputies were involved in a pursuit this afternoon that began in the City of Altoona and ended in the Town of Bridge Creek, just outside the City of Augusta.

Law enforcement personnel throughout Eau Claire County were notified shortly after 2:00 PM Wednesday afternoon that a 19-year old male, address unknown, had walked away from Luther Hospital. Minutes after, a report of a stolen vehicle from one of the Luther Hospital parking lots was called in to Eau Claire Police Department. The owner of the vehicle being stolen was struck by their car as the theft was taking place. A description of the car and the driver was broadcast to Eau Claire County law enforcement.

Altoona Police Department happened upon the vehicle on USH 12 in their jurisdiction, and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. An Altoona Police patrol vehicle was struck during this traffic stop, and a pursuit occurred. Eau Claire Sheriff's deputies joined the pursuit just east of Altoona in the Town of Washington.

The pursuit continued eastbound on USH 12 with speeds under 80 MPH. The pursuit went through the Village of Fall Creek and continued east. Several attempts were made to set up tire deflation devices along USH 12, with the suspect vehicle eventually striking one of the devices.

An Eau Claire Sheriff's Office deputy performed a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT maneuver) upon the fleeing vehicle at USH 12 and CTH R, causing the driver of the fleeing vehicle to lose control and enter the ditch. Once in the ditch, the driver continued to attempt to flee, and the PIT maneuver was again initiated, causing the driver to spin around and be boxed in by other patrol vehicles. An Eau Claire Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle was struck by the fleeing vehicle during this process.

The fleeing driver was taken into custody and transported to Luther Hospital for medical clearance before transport to Eau Claire County Jail. No injuries were suffered by anyone as a result of the pursuit. Charges in the incident will be forthcoming from Eau Claire Police Department, Eau Claire Sheriff's Office, and Altoona Police Department.

Law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit included Altoona Police Department, Augusta Police Department, the Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Eau Claire Sheriff's Office.

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