

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputies Make Arrests for Attempted Catalytic Converter Theft in Aloha; Suspect Wanted

February 23, 2022

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at approximately 1:23 a.m., deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a report that three unidentified male suspects were attempting to steal a catalytic converter from a motorhome. The victim heard a saw being used outside his home on SW Lenore Drive. This is in the Aloha area, part of the Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District (ESPD). The victim reported that the suspects drove off in a red, four-door sedan with a license plate barely hanging on the back of the car.

A deputy on patrol in the area spotted a vehicle matching the description driving north on SW Cornelius Pass Road. The car was going above the posted limit, and its license plate was hanging by a single bolt. The driver of the suspect vehicle continued to swerve around vehicles and ran a red light at SW Wilkins Road. The deputy activated their overhead lights and attempted to stop the vehicle.

The suspect continued for three miles, driving recklessly and failing to stop for traffic control devices. The driver eventually crashed at the intersection of SW Grabhorn Road and SW Gassner Road. Several people got out of the car and ran away from the crash location. One of the passengers, a female, stayed on the scene, followed commands, and was taken into custody.

Inside the car, deputies could see two backpacks, a reciprocating saw, multiple saw blades, as well as other items.

More deputies responded, including a canine unit from the Sheriff's Office and Beaverton Police Department. After an extensive search, a male passenger from the vehicle, who was carrying a DeWalt reciprocating saw, was located. He told deputies he had been trying to remove a catalytic converter off a motorhome before police arrived.



The suspect, identified as Robert Bates, age 33 of Hillsboro, was taken to the Washington County Jail on charges of criminal mischief in the first degree, theft in the first degree, felon in possession of a restricted weapon, and a felony warrant.

The female passenger, identified as Ashlee Edwards, age 26 of Hillsboro, was taken to jail on charges of criminal mischief in the first degree and attempted theft in the first degree.



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Deputies seized the vehicle, and detectives from the Property Crimes Unit executed a search warrant where more evidence of crimes was found.

The driver, identified as Kevin Flanagan, was not located. He is currently wanted for felony attempt to elude, conspiracy for theft in the first degree and criminal mischief in the first degree, reckless driving, and reckless endangering. If located, please contact the Washington County Sheriff's Office at 503-629-0111 or 9-1-1 if it's an emergency.

The [Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District](#) (ESPD) provides law enforcement services for more than 237,000 residents in the urban areas outside of cities in Washington County, including Bethany, Cedar Mill, Cedar Hills, Aloha, Reedville, Garden Home, Metzger, Rock Creek, Raleigh Hills, Bull Mountain, Bonny Slope, West Slope, Oak Hills, and more. Voters first approved the ESPD in 1987 and all local option levies since then.



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