



Eureka Police Department

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Media Release

Detective Sergeant Patrick O’Neill (707) 268-5261

On 7-24-2011 at about 1:21 am, an Officer with the Eureka Police Department was on routine patrol in the area of Harris and Summer Street, when he observed a suspicious vehicle. The officer attempted a traffic enforcement stop on the vehicle for a vehicle code violation, but the vehicle fled. A pursuit was then initiated. The suspect vehicle led the officer at high speeds through residential Eureka and Pine Hill areas of town, before the officer lost sight of the vehicle.

The area was searched, with the assistance of other responding officers. The suspect vehicle was soon located near Higgins and Meyers Streets in Pine Hill. An enforcement stop was once again attempted, but the suspect vehicle fled thru Pine Hill. The pursuit continued to Herrick Avenue and then back into Eureka. The suspect vehicle again was traveling at a high rate of speed and had also turned its vehicle lights off. The suspect vehicle continued past the Eureka Municipal Golf Course and northbound on “F” Street, reaching speeds in excess of 70 mph. An attempt to deploy spike strips to stop the suspect vehicle was made on “F” Street, but was unsuccessful. The suspect vehicle began making sporadic sudden turns on surface streets in the south end of Eureka, before impacting into a Eureka Police patrol unit, who was in the vicinity assisting with the pursuit. The collision took place at Oak and F Streets.

The force of the impact spun the patrol unit out of control and into a nearby fence. The suspect vehicle careened into parked cars before coming to rest.

Emergency medical personnel responded to the scene, along with the California Highway Patrol.

As a result of the impact of the collision, the officer was pinned in the vehicle and had to be extricated. The officer was later treated and released for moderate injuries at St. Joseph Emergency Room.

The suspect, identified as Benjamin Owen Bussell (25 years old of Hoopa), was taken into custody on fresh charges and outstanding warrants. He was then transported to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment of major injuries.

Any information regarding this incident or resulting collision should be directed to the California Highway Patrol.

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BENJAMIN OWEN BUSSELL

