



Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Date: December 14, 2009

From: Brenda Godsey, PIO
(707) 268-3645

Subject: Felony Evading/DUI Arrest

Cases: 200908173

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Weitchpec man was arrested late Saturday night after recklessly fleeing from Sheriff's Deputies in his vehicle while under the influence. At about 11:15 p.m. a Sheriff's Deputy was on patrol in the Hoopa area on State Route 96. He saw a white Ford Ranger traveling northbound in the southbound lane. The deputy followed the vehicle and saw it swerve back and forth several times. The deputy initiated a traffic enforcement stop but the driver of the vehicle failed to yield. The driver, later identified as Gaylord Lewis, 38, accelerated to approximately 75 mph, crossing into oncoming lanes more than once. Lewis drove over the Klamath River Bridge and turned north onto State Route 169. At mile marker 32.74 Lewis' vehicle left the roadway, landing upside down in a creek. Lewis sustained bloody nose in the collision and but refused medical treatment. Lewis was arrested and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility. He was booked for evading a pursuing peace officer a driving with willful or wanton disregard for the safety others, reckless driving, driving under the influence, and possession of marijuana. His bail was set at \$15,000 and he is expected to be arraigned by Thursday.

Gary Philp
Sheriff

###