



SHERIFF

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Media Release

Burglary Suspect Crashes Stolen Vehicle During Pursuit

April 6, 2018 – Deputies located a vehicle suspected of burglarizing Hillsboro businesses overnight. The driver was arrested after leading deputies on a pursuit into Cornelius in a stolen vehicle.

On April 6, 2018, around 3:00 a.m., a Washington County Sheriff's Office deputy was conducting routine patrols when he observed a suspicious vehicle leaving a business near Southeast Walnut Street and Southeast 10th Avenue in Hillsboro. The deputy conducted a check of the business and located signs of forced entry to a door.

About 20 minutes later, another deputy located the same vehicle, a red 1997 Chevrolet Camaro, leaving a business at Southwest Baseline Street and Southwest 17th Avenue. Burglary tools were found at the scene.



Deputies attempted to stop it, but the Camaro failed to pull over and a pursuit began. The pursuit continued into Cornelius, where deputies were joined by units serving the city. Deputies completed a pursuit intervention technique (PIT), but the vehicle drove away again. A patrol SUV sustained minor damage during the PIT.

The pursuit ended when the vehicle drove into a ditch past a dead-end street, jumped the railroad tracks, and crashed. The driver fled the crash but was captured after a brief foot pursuit. A passenger inside the vehicle was not injured.

During the investigation, deputies learned that the Camaro had been stolen sometime overnight from an auto lot and stolen property was found from inside the vehicle.

The suspect, 53-year-old Verlon Thompson of Texas, was arrested on charges of possession of a stolen vehicle, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, attempt to elude in a vehicle, attempt to elude on foot, and reckless driving. He is being held at the Washington County Jail on \$10,000 bail.



Deputies are working closely with the Hillsboro Police Department to investigate the related business burglaries. Additional charges are likely as the investigation continues.

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Sheriff Pat Garrett