

Reckless Driver Attempts to Elude/Crashes in front yard of Columbia County Residence

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A 30-year-old St. Helens man was arrested last night after a short police pursuit that ended with the suspect crashing his car in the front yard of a Warren-area residence.

A Columbia County Sheriff's deputy located Aaron Randels fleeing the scene where he had crashed his car about 3-1/2 hours after the suspect had attempted to elude apprehension for reckless driving and other related offenses.

The chase began on Highway 30 in Columbia County just after 8 p.m. Thursday night when a deputy attempted to stop a 2004 Volvo 4-door sedan for a speeding violation. The suspect saw the deputy activate his overhead emergency lights and decided to elude apprehension. The suspect turned up Tarbell Rd. in Warren and continued at high speed to attempt to elude.

At the intersection of Slavens Way and Garden View Court, the suspect lost control of his vehicle and crashed in the front yard of the residence at 55883 Garden View Court. Before the deputy arrived at the scene, the suspect fled on foot.

Oregon State Police, Scappoose Police and a canine unit from the St. Helens Police Department arrived to assist. Approximately 3-1/2 hours later, the suspect was located by a deputy running along Berg Rd. Randels was taken into custody without further incident.

Randels was booked and released from the Columbia County Jail with charges of Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangering, Hit and Run and Attempt to Elude.