

A car theft suspect in a stolen car out of St. Helens Thursday night is now in jail after a deputy watching traffic near the Yankton School was alerted to the suspect. After determining the vehicle had been stolen, the deputy gave chase to the vehicle as the driver sped off in an effort to elude capture. The chase ended in St. Helens after the driver crashed. The suspect later told the deputy he had just gotten out of prison for car theft. Joshua K. Hayes, 31, Portland is lodged in the Columbia County Jail on two counts of Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, and one count each of: Attempt to Elude (vehicle); Attempt to Elude (foot); Criminal Driving While Revoked; and, Parole Violation.

At 10:27 p.m., the sheriff's deputy saw suspicious driving on the part of the suspect and began following the vehicle from Brinn Rd. and Pittsburg Rd. in the St. Helens area. Once the deputy got behind the vehicle, he noted the description and last three numbers on the license plate matched the description of the 1999 Nissan that had been previously reported as stolen out of St. Helens. The deputy began to follow the vehicle and called for assistance from the St. Helens Police.

As the deputy was following behind the suspect, the suspect accelerated rapidly. The deputy gave chase--eventually with lights and siren--headed eastbound on Pittsburg Rd just to the west of the City of St. Helens. The suspect vehicle drove down Barr Avenue from Pittsburg and entered the city, eventually crashing the stolen vehicle on Snow Street just before 10:30 p.m. The vehicle ended up in the driveway of 34763 Snow Street in West St. Helens. The suspect then fled on foot, but the deputy gave chase and captured the suspect, holding him at gunpoint until help arrived from the St. Helens Police Department. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident and lodged in the Columbia County Jail. The stolen vehicle was recovered by the deputy and turned over to the St. Helens Police Department.

Hayes' parole officer was contacted and a detainer was placed on the suspect in addition to the local criminal charges.