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SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2011

Garfield County, Colorado: At 6:50 p.m., Friday night, November 11th, 2011, while traveling westbound on highways 6 & 24, Garfield County Sheriff's Deputies initiated a traffic stop for a minor traffic infraction, just east of the Rifle City limits. As the driver of the Toyota FJ Land Cruiser passed the intersection of Old Hospital Road, and Highway 6 & 24, the deputy began the traffic stop by activating his emergency lights. The driver noticed the deputy and his lights behind him, instead of slowing to a stop, the driver increased his speed, failing to yield and attempting to elude the deputies.

The pursuit lasted only a few minutes, and covered less than 6 miles, when the deputy called off the pursuit due to the suspects reckless driving. Unfortunately the suspect continued to drive away. A short time later, deputies on the lookout for the Toyota FJ Land Cruiser found the Toyota Land Cruiser had crashed into a concrete barrier, deputies began setting up a parameter and notifying additional law enforcement that the suspect left scene of the accident.

K-9 Ejon and his deputy handler tracked the suspect for approximately 15 minutes; deputies believed the suspect had already escaped their perimeter and continued their investigation.

This suspect remains is currently wanted for eluding and leaving the scene of an accident.

Further information will be released as it becomes available, this case remains an active investigation.

The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.

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