Yakima County Sheriff’s Office Press Release
For Immediate Release

Date: May 21, 2020

Incident Number: 20C08275

Incident/Offense: Stolen Vehicle Pursuit / K9 capture / Arrest

Location: Fort Road and South Oldenway Road Toppenish, Washington

Incident Date and Time: May 21, 2020

A Yakima County Sheriff’s Office Traffic Enforcement Unit spotted a recently reported stolen vehicle at the above-mentioned intersection at the listed time. He signaled the driver to stop, but rather than stopping, the driver accelerated away from the Deputy in an attempt avoid being captured.

The suspect eluded Yakima County Sheriff’s Office Deputies and Yakama Tribal Police at speeds approaching 90 miles-per-hour for approximately 27 miles for almost thirty minutes. The suspect drove around spike strip vehicle immobilization devices several times.

This incident ended when the driver entered a field in the 10200 block of McDonald Road. A Yakima County Sheriff’s Office Deputy used his vehicle push-bars in an attempt to immobilize the vehicle. Being unable to drive away, the driver exited the automobile and ran from Deputies. Deputy Nick Ward ordered the suspect to stop running of he would get bit by a police dog. Failing to obey the warning, the suspect continued to run off. K9 Zuza was deployed and bit the 26-year-old male resident of Toppenish on his arm until other Officers could assist her with taking the male into custody. Once he was medically screened at a local hospital, the arrested male was booked into the Yakima County Jail for the following charges:

RCW 46.61.024 Attempting to Elude a Police Vehicle
RCW 46.56.068 Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle
RCW 9A.76.040 Resisting Arrest
RCW 46.52.020 Hit & Run
RCW 9A.76.200 Harming a Police Dog
RCW 46.64.055 Driving with a Suspended License in the Third Degree
Please contact the Yakima County Sheriff’s Office (509-574-2500) or Crimes Stoppers at (800) 248-9980/www.crimestoppersyakco.org if you have any information related to this investigation.

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