

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER



DATE : October 31, 2011

RELEASED BY: Sgt. Anthony Borgman

CONTACT: South County Watch Commander, 530-538-7322

SUBJECT: C11-15918, Reported Assault, Pursuit, (SUS) Vehicle Collision with Injury

On Monday October 31, 2011, at approximately 5:50 pm, a resident of the 5200 block of Miner's Ranch Road, Oroville, reported that her ex-husband was trying to run her over in her yard. While Deputies were responding to the area, the victim advised that the suspect, later identified as 53 year old Oroville resident Mark A. Pesonen, left in a small, red pickup with an unknown passenger.

Butte County Sheriff's Deputy D. Ament located a red pickup matching the description of Pesonen's pickup on the east end of Lower Wyandotte Road. Deputy Ament initiated an investigative stop on the pickup and Pesonen failed to yield, accelerating westbound on Lower Wyandotte Road. According to Deputy Ament during the course of the pursuit, Pesonen was driving approximately 55 mph, and reached a maximum speed of approximately 70 mph. Pesonen was avoiding other vehicles in the area that were yielding to Deputy Ament's emergency lights and siren, passed Drescher Tract Road. As Pesonen passed the Feather Falls Casino on Lower Wyandotte Road however, he lost control of the pickup when he tried to avoid slower traffic. The pickup drifted across the center turn lane and the eastbound lane, struck the end of a culvert in the ditch on the south side of Lower Wyandotte Road, rolled and came to rest on it's roof.

Deputy Ament requested Cal-Fire and ambulance for the occupants of the truck, who were trapped inside the vehicle. Pesonen became agitated and began to be aggressive. He was able to exit the vehicle and was detained by Mooretown Rancheria Security and Deputy Ament until

rescue personnel arrived. Butte County Fire/Cal-Fire, El Medio Fire and Oroville Fire firefighters coordinated the extrication of Pesonen's passenger, 52 year old Oroville resident Kenneth Jones.

Jones was life-flighted by REACH 7 to an area hospital and is currently in critical condition. Pesonen was transported to an area hospital, was treated and released to the custody of Deputies. He was transported to the Butte County Jail in Oroville and booked for felony 594(b)(1) PC, vandalism of the victim's property; felony 2800.3(a) CVC, attempting to elude a Peace Officer resulting in great bodily injury; 23153(a) CVC, driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, neglecting the duty to stop and causing injury to his passenger; 23153(b) CVC, driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol level greater than 0.08%, neglecting the duty to stop and causing injury to his passenger; as well as 14601.2(a) CVC, driving while his license was suspended for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. His total bail was set at \$189,000.

Further investigation determined that Pesonen did not drive the vehicle at the victim in a way that would actually constitute an assault with a deadly weapon at the Miner's Ranch Road residence as originally reported.