



KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

301 VIRGINIA STREET EAST

CHARLESTON, WV. 25301

304-357-0169

Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford

Chief Deputy Joseph H. Crawford

NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Sergeant Joshua L. Lester

joshualester@kcsso.us

March 15, 2024.

Phone: 304.357.0732 office

681.910.3649 cell

Stolen Vehicle Pursuit

Belle, WV- On Friday, March 15, 2024, deputies with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to look for a suspicious vehicle that left the Rand Dollar General around 8:30 a.m. Metro dispatchers were told by an employee of the store that a male and female came into the store together, the female shoplifted several cans of spray paint and then she went outside and spray painted over the markings on the van before they left.

Deputies located the van which appeared to belong to an Auto Glass Repair Company, traveling east on Rt. 60 in Belle. Deputies initially stopped the van and when they approached the driver, he fled with the vehicle leading deputies on a high-speed pursuit towards Malden.

The driver, later identified as Shawn Patrick Winfree of Cedar Grove was traveling over 100 mph, passing vehicles illegally, and showing reckless disregard to other motorists. Once in Malden, Winfree attempted to elude deputies by traveling offroad where he got the vehicle stuck.

Winfree fled from the van and into a heavily wooded area. Kanawha County Deputies and West Virginia State Police Troopers were able to set up a perimeter and Troopers deployed a drone within minutes of the pursuit ending.

Two Sheriff K-9s were deployed (K-9 Whiskey and K-9 Ruben) and together they were able to track Winfree to a nearby drain culvert where he was hiding. Winfree was arrested without incident and charged with one felony count of Fleeing with Reckless Indifference.



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We later learned the female was fearful of Winfree and had intentionally stolen the spray paint to paint the vehicle as a ploy to get employees to call 911.

Charleston Police Department is continuing to investigate this incident further, as the Auto Glass Repair Van was recently stolen from a Charleston area business.



Winfree, Shawn P.

41 years old



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