

Man leads police on 'lengthy' chase

■ A pickup truck engages a Lincoln officer and state patrol in a 15-minute pursuit.

By JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

A man with a dragging muffler led police on a lengthy slow-speed chase Wednesday night.

The chase started near 10th and Van Dorn streets after an officer saw sparks flying from under a 1987 Chevrolet S-10 pickup and continued to N.W. 48th Street in the Airpark neighborhood, where police caught the driver, Lincoln Police Sgt. Todd Beam said.

When Officer Doug Hruska turned around to follow the car, he estimated the truck was driving 50 to 55 mph.

Throughout the chase, the suspect consistently drove 5 to 15 mph above

the speed limit and slowed at stop signs before driving through them, Beam said.

Around 9th and South streets, Hruska caught up with the suspect and turned on his lights, but police said the driver refused to stop. Instead, he continued south on 9th Street to Van Dorn Street and turned north.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said the chase lasted 13 minutes, which he called "rather lengthy" for a pursuit.

From Van Dorn Street the suspect led Hruska east on Capitol Parkway West, and then south on Folsom Street winding his way to Highway 77 and turning north toward the Interstate.

With Hruska in tow, the suspect exited north onto N.W. 48th Street and started passing other cars in a no-passing zone.

Hruska broke off the chase to avoid endangering other people.

Casady said it is police procedure to weigh the risks to the public against the

benefits of continuing a chase.

But the suspect didn't realize he was driving into the lion's den, or in this case, the State Patrol headquarters.

"If you're ever involved in a pursuit, don't drive to the nearest police headquarters," Casady said.

The State Patrol picked up the pursuit quickly and saw the truck drive into a snowbank.

The 34-year-old driver exited the truck and ran into a nearby field, where police caught up with him, Casady said.

Police said he resisted arrest and refused to submit to sobriety tests, telling police he wasn't the driver of the truck and was out in the field to check his traps.

The man, who lives on the 6600 block of N.W. 48th Street, was arrested for willful reckless driving, driving while intoxicated and with a suspended license, failure to comply, failure to submit to a chemical test and fleeing to avoid arrest.

Law & Order

Man attempts burglary

Five Lincoln Police officers got an earful Wednesday night when arresting a would-be burglar.

Just before 11:30 p.m., a neighbor called police to a home on S. Ninth Street because someone was tampering with a window, Lincoln Police Sgt. Todd Beam said.

Two officers arrived and saw a man prying on a window.

He refused to stop and raise his hands, so officers physically subdued him.

The man continued to resist, and the officers couldn't get him into the car.

At one point the man had his legs wrapped around one officer's waist, and yelled, "the cops in Texas are tougher."

It took five officers to get him into the car. He was jailed on charges of

resisting arrest, failure to comply and attempted burglary.

Lincoln businesses receive obscene calls

A man impersonating a Lincoln Police officer called businesses Wednesday asking female employees probing questions.

Three businesses - two restaurants and a shoe store - reported calls from this man around 5 p.m., Beam said.

The man told the businesses he was investigating a stolen purse, and wanted to talk to a female employee.

The conversation progressed to more personal questions until the employee hung up.

Casady said these were probably just obscene phone calls.

Compiled by senior staff writer Josh Funk

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