

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Press Release

(Title of Crime/Incident) 2800.2(a)CVC [Recklessly Evading a Peace Officer], 11378H&S [Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale], 11379H&S [Transportation of Methamphetamine], 14601.1(a)CVC [Driving on a Suspended License], 3 Misdemeanor Arrest Warrants

Report Number: 2015-279

Coroner Number:

Crime/Incident: 2800.2(a)CVC [Recklessly Evading a Peace Officer], 11378H&S [Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale], 11379H&S [Transportation of Methamphetamine], 14601.1(a)CVC [Driving on a Suspended License], 3 Misdemeanor Arrest Warrants
Location: 18000 block of North Highway 1, Fort Bragg, Ca.

When: **Date:** 01-03-2015 **Time:** 10:56 PM

Victim Info :

	Name	Age	Street Address	City, State
Victim #1:	People of the State of California			

Suspect Info:

	Name	Age	Street Address	City, State
Suspect #1:	Joshua Bennett	40		Fort Bragg, Ca.

Written by: Sergeant Dustin Lorenzo

Synopsis:

On 01-03-2015 at approximately 10:56 PM, Mendocino County Sheriff's Deputies were in the 18000 block of North Highway 1, Fort Bragg, California, when they observed a black Honda DelSol following another vehicle at an unsafe distance. Sheriff's Deputies began to follow the vehicle northbound on North Highway 1.

At the north end of the Hare Creek Bridge, near the intersection of Highway 20, the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Joshua Vernon Bennett of Fort Bragg, suddenly drove from the center dividing line of the highway, across two lanes of traffic onto the Highway 20 merging lane.

Sheriff's Deputies initiated a traffic stop using their emergency lights on Highway 20 but Bennett accelerated to approximately 75 miles per hour in the posted 45 mile per hour zone, and failed to yield.

Bennett continued traveling at high speeds and turned south onto South Harbor Drive and then turned east on Basin Street with deputies in pursuit.

Bennett lost control of the vehicle as it made the turn onto Basin Street and it began rotating clockwise. The vehicle came to rest facing west on it's wheels in the center of the roadway. Bennett ran east from the vehicle up the embankment, leaving a female passenger in the vehicle. Bennett was apprehended by Sheriff's Deputies without incident approximately 40 yards up the hill attempting to hide in the brush.

It was determined that Bennett's driving privileges were suspended, he had three active misdemeanor arrest warrants issued out of the Ten Mile Superior Court for violations of his probation and possession of drug paraphernalia and he was found in possession of approximately 13.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine.

Bennett was transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he was booked for 2800.2(a)CVC [Recklessly Evading a Peace Officer], 11378H&S [Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale], 11379H&S [Transportation of Methamphetamine], 14601.1(a)CVC [Driving on a Suspended License], and the three misdemeanor arrest warrants to be held in lieu of \$67,500 dollars bail.

Approved By: Lieutenant Greg Stefani

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