NEWS RELEASE
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DUII Suspect Arrested, Officer Injured
Case No. 12-04856

SUMMARY: A DUII suspect was arrested after a crash that drew EPD patrol response. The suspect fought with an investigating officer, who sustained an injury and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Today at 3:25 p.m., Police were called regarding a non-injury crash involving a blue Ford Explorer off the road in a ditch at W. 11th and Greenhill Road. Two EPD officers responding to the crash suspected the driver of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and began conducting a sobriety test of the driver, Vance Edward Dewitt, age 50, of Eugene. During the test, it became necessary, due to Dewitt’s aggressive behavior, for officers to detain him in handcuffs. When officers went to handcuff Dewitt, he began to use force to resist them and as the officers attempted to get him into handcuffs, the struggle went the ground and one officer’s head struck the ground. Subsequently, Dewitt climbed on top of the downed officer and prepared to strike him in the head. The cover officer used a taser to stop Dewitt from hitting the officer. A second application of the taser was required to take him into custody.

The officer was transported to a local hospital for what appears to be a non life threatening injury. Dewitt will be lodged at the Lane County Jail for Assault on a Public Safety Officer, Reckless Endangering, Reckless Driving. Other charges are pending.

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