



Press Release
North Fond du Lac Police Department
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www.nfdl.org



For Immediate Distribution
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A 47 year-old North Fond du Lac man is being held in the Fond du Lac County Jail following a vehicle pursuit early Tuesday morning. Frank Mitchem, Jr. led police on an 8.5 mile chase that began on North Pioneer Road in North Fond du Lac and ended on Pioneer Road in Fond du Lac. North Fond du Lac Police Sergeant Troy Damsteegt attempted to stop the vehicle shortly before 2:30 a.m. after noting that the registration was suspended due to an unpaid citation. The driver failed to stop and continued driving south to Johnson Street. There, the driver turned onto Highway 41 southbound. The driver went north on the Highway 151 Bypass and exited northbound onto County Road V. He continued westbound on East Pioneer Road where he was stopped near Martin Avenue after driving over spike strips deployed by Fond du Lac police. Speeds during the pursuit reached approximately 75 mph.

After the vehicle was stopped, officers discovered that the man's nine year-old daughter was in the backseat of the car. There was also an adult male passenger in the front seat. Mitchem was taken into custody without further incident, and no one was injured during the incident. He was arrested and held in the jail for Fleeing an Officer and Operating While Intoxicated - 5th offense - Passenger Under 16 YOA. Mitchem was also cited for Operating after Revocation - 1st offense, and Operating a Motor Vehicle After Registration Suspended. Police later learned that Mitchem's niece reported that her uncle had taken her car from Milwaukee without permission and are requesting an additional charge for Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent.

According to the passenger, he told Mitchem that he should stop and asked why he wasn't stopping. He told police that Mitchem told him not to worry about it.

City of Fond du Lac Police and the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department assisted in the pursuit.