

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | April 1, 2024

McLean County Sheriff's Department Pursuit Crash in Burleigh County

What: Injury Crash

Where: Highway 83 Southbound MM 100, 8 miles north of Bismarck

When: 04/01/2024 at 5:04 AM Central

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Cloudy

Crash Involvement: Vehicle/Vehicle

Type of Crash: Deployment of Grappler Police Bumper/Rollover

Agencies Involved: Mclean County Sheriff's Department, Burleigh County Sheriff's Department, Wilton Fire Department, ND Highway Patrol

Vehicle No. 1: 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe-Mclean County Sheriff Patrol Vehicle

Driver No. 1: Raymond Copeland, 43-year-old male, Wilton, minor injury

Restraints: Seatbelt in use

Charges: None

Vehicle No. 2: 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt

Driver No. 2: Colton Lauer, 20-year-old male, Lignite, no injury

Restraints: unknown

Charges: Fleeing a Police Officer, Driving Under Suspension, Possession of Methamphetamine Paraphernalia, Multiple Outstanding Arrest Warrants

NARRATIVE: Vehicle 1, driven by Corporal Raymond Copeland of Mclean County Sheriff's Department, was traveling southbound on Highway 83 north of Wilton. Vehicle 2, driven by Colton Lauer, was also traveling southbound coming up behind Copeland. Lauer would not pass Copeland's marked squad car once behind him. Corporal Copeland pulled to the shoulder. Lauer then took off southbound at a high rate of speed into Burleigh County. Copeland activated his emergency lights and pursued Lauer for exceeding the speed limit. The

pursuit lasted for approximately 10 miles. Corporal Copeland deployed his Grappler Police Bumper to bring the vehicle to a stop. The Grappler consists of a net that wraps around the rear tire of the suspect vehicle and brings the vehicle to a stop when the police vehicle brakes. Copeland deployed the Grappler wrapping a rear tire with the net. However, both vehicles lost control and entered the west ditch. Vehicles disconnected and Corporal Copeland's vehicle overturned coming to rest in the west ditch on its roof. Lauer also came to rest in the ditch upright (did not roll) and fled on foot. Lauer was captured a short time later with no reported injuries. Corporal Copeland was transported to Sanford Hospital with minor injuries. Lauer had multiple outstanding warrants. He is also being charged with fleeing a police officer, possession of methamphetamine paraphernalia, and Driving under Suspension. The crash remains under investigation by the Highway Patrol.

For more information, contact:

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