High-speed police chase in Niagara Falls leads to recovery of vehicle stolen in Cheektowaga

By Mike Kurilovitch   April 18, 2020

(News file photo)

An SUV stolen from the Cheektowaga area was recovered early Sunday after a chase through Niagara Falls city streets at speeds of up to 90 mph, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office reported.

The chase began when the vehicle sped away after deputies spotted it parked with lights off behind the 7-Eleven Store, 9101 Niagara Falls Blvd. at Niemel Drive. After dropping a passenger, it sped off again, crossing Military Road near Factory Outlet Boulevard. The driver shut the lights off after turning onto Wing Court and police lost sight of the vehicle.

The 2017 Toyota 4Runner later was found abandoned with a broken front window in the 2800 block of Lockport Road. A K-9 search of the area failed to turn up any sign of the three or four men who were reportedly seen fleeing by witnesses.

Officers doubled back and picked up the passenger who had exited the vehicle, a 19-year-old Niagara Falls man who reportedly said he was on probation. Deputies said he had a vaping cartridge containing suspected THC, a marijuana derivative, and it was seized for testing. Charges are pending the results of those tests.

An investigation is continuing.

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