

Pursuit, Meth, Sends One to Jail, One to Hospital

(KAIR)--A pursuit that began in Atchison Friday evening ended in nearby Missouri, with the driver arrested on numerous charges, while a passenger was hospitalized for allegedly swallowing methamphetamine.

Atchison County Sheriff Jack Laurie tells MSC News David Karl Pickens II was arrested in Platte County for possession of meth, and later arrested on an Atchison County warrant for aggravated assault, possession of methamphetamine, felony flee and attempt to elude, and driving while suspended.

The passenger, Tabetha Schmelzle, was transported for hospitalized treatment after the vehicle was stopped in Platte County, Missouri.

Laurie says the pursuit began around 6:30 Friday evening after his office was notified by Leavenworth authorities that the driver of a 2005 Lexus had possibly obtained drugs from that location. The car was spotted in the 300 block of South 10th Street, in Atchison. "We were able to identify the driver as David Pickens who, once checked, his driver's license was not valid. We were able to initiate a stop on that, and almost had him stopped at the Sonic parking lot, where he then decided that he wasn't going to stop."

The vehicle left the parking lot, at 10th and Main, headed in the direction of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge, where Atchison Police Officers were waiting. "The Police Department had an officer on the bridge, and it was a very close call. We're not quite sure if he [Pickens] intentionally swerved at the officer or not, but it was awfully close of striking the officer. [The officer] was able to get the stop sticks down and get the rear tire.]

Despite the flattened rear tire, the vehicle continued on, making its way to Platte County, Missouri.

It was there, the tire gave out, forcing the vehicle to stop at the intersection of 45 Highway and Woolston Road.

Platte County Sheriff's Deputies assisted at the scene, with Pickens arrested.

Along with Schmelze, it was believed he had ingested meth and was assessed by EMS prior to being transported to the Platte County Jail.