

JOPLIN

POLICE

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Jason Burns
Chief of Police

Date: February 18, 2016
Origin: Department PIO
Contact: Captain Bob Higginbotham
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Update/Revision

The suspect was at Kum & Go convenience store located at 4th St. and St. Louis.

NEWS RELEASE

On February 18, 2016 at 0109 AM, while on patrol, Joplin Police Officers observed a white Cadillac that had previously fled from an attempted car stop. Officers observed the vehicle enter the Kum & Go convenience store (located at 4th St. and St. Louis) , park at the gas pumps and exit the vehicle.

The officers approached the suspect vehicle while the driver was outside of his car. Out of an abundance of caution, officers parked their patrol units in the front and to the rear of the suspect vehicle in order to avoid a pursuit. (The suspect was later identified as Christopher J. Whitney, 32, Joplin)

After the officers exited their patrol units, Whitney entered his vehicle and purposefully rammed the patrol unit behind him and fled the scene at a high rate of speed without headlights activated in an effort to elude the officers.

At 1021 S. St. Louis, Whitney entered a private parking lot, drove over curbs and through a privacy fence in order to access S. Connecticut. At 7th St. and St. Charles, Whitney entered a private lot and crashed into a parked car.

Whitney fled on foot and officers apprehended him. Whitney sustained injuries during the pursuit. He was taken to Freeman Hospital for evaluation and released to officers.

The following charges were submitted for review to the Jasper County Prosecutor's Office:

- Felony Fugitive (Whitney has a Cherokee County warrant for Burglary)
- Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer
- Leaving the Scene of an Accident
- Property Damage 2nd Degree

(Photo of Whitney attached)

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Christopher J. Whitney