



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587

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Leeds man arrested following high speed chase through Morton County

Mandan, N.D. – The Morton County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) arrested a Leeds man early yesterday morning who led law enforcement on a high speed chase, often turning off his vehicle's headlights and driving erratically, endangering oncoming traffic.

Austin Folson, age 20, is charged with Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangerment, Fleeing a Police Officer, Escape, and Failure to Halt.

Early Sunday morning, June 16, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reported a pursuit of a vehicle headed northbound on State Highway 6 south of Mandan. MCSO responded as the suspect continued north and was turning off his vehicle's headlights and tail lights at times. The suspect was driving erratically, swerving into the opposite lane of travel without vehicle lights engaged at varied speeds, reaching 99 mph in a 65 mph zone. MCSO placed spike strips on the highway south of St. Anthony and spiked the front driver's side tire. The suspect refused to comply with orders to pull over.

Mandan Police Department was notified to set up spike strips and clear southbound traffic from Mandan at Highway 6. The suspect continued to drive erratically at high speeds and spike strips were deployed a second time, spiking the front passenger side tire.

Upon approaching Mandan, the suspect turned eastbound on Main Street and increased his speed to 90 mph in a 25 mph zone. The vehicle slowed and turned south on 6th Avenue, but then lost traction due to both front tires only on their rims. The vehicle came to a stop, but the suspect refused to comply with orders to exit the vehicle.

Additional MCSO deputies were on scene and were able to remove the suspect from his vehicle, arrest him, and place him in a patrol vehicle. Folson escaped the MCSO vehicle and began to flee on foot. Officers were able to detain Folson and take him back into custody. Folson was transported to the Burleigh Morton Detention Center.

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