



Thomas Corning
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE: UPD CASE 26-2309, 26-2316

Date: 10/16/2026

Location: 800 Block South Dora, Ukiah, Ca

Suspect: Ashtyn Taylor, 20-year-old male of Ukiah, Ca

Victims: 25-year-old female of Ukiah, Ca

Charges: 10851(a) VC – Vehicle Theft
666.5(a) PC – Vehicle Theft with Prior Conviction for Same
496(d) PC – Possession of a Stolen Vehicle
2800.4 VC – Evading a Peace Officer with Wrong Way Driving
2800.2(a) VC – Evading a Peace Officer with Wanton Disregard for Safety
20002(a) VC – Hit and Run with Property Damage
594(b)(1) PC – Vandalism with Damage Valued at \$400 or more.

On 10/15/2026, at approximately 2026 hours, Ukiah Police Department Officers were dispatched to a reported theft of a vehicle from a residence on Pomo Drive in Ukiah. A report was taken and the area was canvassed. The vehicle license plate was entered into the Ukiah Police Department FLOCK database. At the time of the report, the last license plate reading for the vehicle was in the Gobbi Street area, indicating the vehicle likely traveled onto Highway 101. No suspect information or other investigative leads were available to officers at the time of the report.

On 10/16/2026, UPD Officers were made aware that the stolen vehicle had been involved in a vehicle pursuit in the area of Fort Bragg, California. Fort Bragg Police Officers did not apprehend the suspect or vehicle during that pursuit.

On 10/16/2026 at about 2026 hours, UPD Officers received an alert from the FLOCK database that the stolen vehicle license plate registered on a camera within the UPD camera network. Officers located the vehicle driving eastbound on Observatory Drive. Officers initiated a vehicle stop on the stolen vehicle. The vehicle immediately accelerated and began attempting to evade Officers. UPD Officers pursued the vehicle through several surface streets. The driver of the stolen vehicle showed no regard for safety or compliance with traffic laws. The pursuit continued eastbound on Talmage Road, through the Talmage community.

As the stolen vehicle approached the intersection of Talmage Road and Old River Road, it traveled eastbound for a sustained distance in the westbound lane of Talmage Road. An alert motorist traveling in front of the pursuit was about to turn left into a business parking lot. The



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motorist was able to stop as the stolen vehicle sped past. Due to the motorist's quick action, the stolen vehicle collided only slightly with the driver side of the motorist's vehicle, causing minor body damage. The pursuit continued southbound on Old River Road a short distance before returning to Talmage Road and speeding westbound back through the Talmage community. The pursuit continued on surface streets until the vehicle entered the Burger King parking lot on Perkins Street. The driver, later identified as Ashtyn Taylor stopped the vehicle and immediately fled on foot.

Officers from the California Highway Patrol and Mendocino County Sheriff's Office arrived and assisted with a search of the area for Taylor. A female passenger in the stolen vehicle was initially detained and later released from the scene.

A short time later, a UPD Officer located Taylor hiding in the back yard of a residence in the area of El Rio Street. Taylor was taken into custody without further incident. Based on the totality of the investigation, it was determined that Taylor was responsible for the initial theft of the vehicle and was the driver of the vehicle when it evaded FBPD Officers as well. It was also learned that Taylor had previously been convicted for Vehicle Theft, making this violation eligible for enhanced punishment. Taylor was booked into Mendocino County jail for the listed charges, with bail set at \$50,000.

The Registered Owner of the stolen vehicle was contacted by UPD and responded to the pursuit termination point and the vehicle was released to the owner.

The Ukiah Police Department would like to thank the California Highway Patrol and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office for their assistance with this investigation.

As always, our mission at UPD is to make Ukiah as safe a place as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website; www.ukiahpolice.com

Prepared by: Sergeant J. Vanoven 4S39