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For release upon receipt
Today is Friday, June 23, 2006
06PR012

LIBERTY – Numerous felony charges – including child kidnapping – were filed as a result of a Thursday car chase on rain slicked highways says Clay County prosecutor Daniel White.

Charged today with two counts of the Class A felony of kidnapping a child is 31-year-old Wesley Alan Bass, 3218 Thompson, Kansas City. Bass also faces felony adult kidnapping charges, resisting an arrest by flight, and tampering with a motor vehicle. Judge Don Norris set bond at \$1 million, said White.

The kidnapping of a child case carries a maximum punishment of 30 years in prison. The adult kidnapping charge carries a maximum of 15 years, the tampering carries a maximum of seven and the flight carries a maximum of four years in prison.

White stressed that though charged Bass is presumed to be innocent unless there is a plea or a finding of guilty by a court of law. Bass remains in the Clay County Jail today in lieu of bond.

“It started with an allegation of a motorcycle theft in Independence,” said White.

White said a 34-year-old Independence man who had his bike stolen earlier in the week saw the alleged thief at a convenience store near Smithville Lake and began following the truck which was towing a green boat along Highway 92 near Mount Olivet. Clay County Sheriff’s deputies were alerted and one spotted the vehicle parked at Little Platte Marina on Smithville Lake.

Bass was launching the green boat when a deputy ordered him back to shore. Instead of returning to land, Bass fled in the boat.

“Bass motored to Crow’s Creek boat ramp where we allege he called a friend to pick him up. When the friend arrived, Bass beached the boat, ran to the friend’s vehicle, a red 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix and fled the area with the friend’s car, wife, and two pre-school aged children still in the vehicle,” said White. “That’s what triggered the three kidnapping charges.”

White said deputies tried to stop Bass but the vehicle he was driving failed to yield to police vehicles. The Grand Prix was clocked in excess of 90 miles an hour along winding two lane roads before spike strips were deployed near the city limits of Kearney. One tire deflated but the vehicle was still able to make it onto I-35 and head south, again at speeds of 90 miles an hour.

“Remember,” said White, “it was raining Thursday. We’re not talking about a dry, sunny day in the park. We’re talking about a rain-slicked highway and high rates of speed.”

The video shows smoke roiling from the vehicle as it continues south on I-35 before leaving the roadway to drop down a grassy embankment onto Hwy. 69 near Claycomo. The vehicle can be seen going north on the southbound lanes of Hwy. 69, finally becoming disabled and stopping under the Hwy. 69 and I-435 overpass.

“The video shows deputies securing the scene and pulling Bass from his former friend’s car. You can also see a toddler, removed from the car, being comforted by a deputy,” said White.

White said the woman victim, mother of the two children, said she feared for her and her children’s safety, and that she repeatedly told Bass to stop during the chase.

“Deputies found out later that Bass has an active federal warrant on a bond violation. Evidently, he is facing federal weapons charges,” said the prosecutor.

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For more information, contact Jim Roberts or Daniel White at 792-7657