

High Speed Chase In Echols County Ends With Arrest and Stolen Vehicle

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On April 26, 2016 at approximately 11:50 P.M. Echols Deputies were patrolling Hwy 441 when

they encountered two vehicles, a white 2004 GMC Sierra flatbed truck and a

2000's model Ford F150 come to a complete stop in the highway. The vehicles then continued south bound. The Deputies attempted to stop both vehicles

due to the suspicious activity. One of

the Deputies initiated his blue lights after pulling behind the 2004 GMC Sierra

flatbed truck. The truck then fled from

the Deputies who initiated a brief vehicle chase, which ended when the Sierra left the roadway and went through a

fence on private property and then the suspect fled on foot. Deputies gave chase and apprehended the

suspect after deploying a taser to stop him. Suspect was taken into custody and was found to be in possession of

various lock picks and shaved vehicle keys which led the Deputies to believe

the vehicle was stolen. Further

investigation revealed that the vehicle was in fact just stolen from a

construction company in Douglas, GA. Suspect refused to provide any identification but was later identified

to be George Richard Fleming, 56 of Florida. Fleming had just been released from prison on April 13, 2016 after

serving time for a similar offense. Fleming was transported to Lowndes County Jail where he faces charges in

multiple jurisdictions for the following charges (F) theft by taking (motor vehicle), (F)

burglary, (F) Possession of tools during the commission of a crime, (F) fleeing

and attempting to elude law enforcement, (F) theft by receiving stolen

property, (M) criminal trespass, obstruction of an officer, (M) improper

stopping on a roadway, (M) driving while unlicensed, (M) DUI refusal, (M) failure

to maintain lane, and (M) open container. Sheriff

Courson would like to commend the Deputies for their continued efforts in

keeping the citizens of Echols County safe and putting these career criminals

where they belong.