



"Safety, Professionalism & Community Service"

Cedric Crook
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE: UPD CASE # 25-0385

Date: 02/22/2025

Location: 680 South State Street in Ukiah, CA.

Victims: People of the State of California.
Enterprise Rental Car.

Suspect: George Garland Rathwick
62-year-old male from Riverdale, CA.

Violations: 496d(a) PC- Possession of a stolen vehicle (Felony.)
69(a) PC- Resist arrest by force or threat (Felony.)
11377(a) H&S- Possession of a controlled substance (Misdemeanor.)

On 02/22/2025 at approximately 10:30am Ukiah Police Department (UPD) Officers were alerted by the Flock automated license plate recognition system that a reported stolen vehicle was traveling the streets of Ukiah. UPD Dispatch was able to verify that the Mazda CX-5 SUV had been reported stolen by Enterprise Rental Car, and the vehicle was still at large.

A short time later officers located the stolen Mazda in the parking lot of the Rite Aid in Ukiah. Officers noted that a male, later identified as George Rathwick of Riverdale, California was seated in the driver's seat. Due to the propensity of vehicle thieves carrying weapons, a high-risk felony stop was attempted, but Rathwick put the stolen vehicle into reverse, backed up, and drove out of the parking lot. Rathwick drove across the street and pulled into the parking lot of the Chase Bank, because as he later told the officers, it was an open parking lot where he could force the officers into shooting him without putting anyone else in danger.

A standoff ensued in the Chase Bank parking lot, and Rathwick told the officers that he was armed with a firearm and intended to shoot himself. UPD Officers spent several minutes speaking with Rathwick to deescalate the situation, and Rathwick eventually exited the vehicle and was taken into custody without incident. Rathwick was not found to be in possession of a firearm.

During a search of Rathwick's person he was found to be in possession of a baggie of methamphetamine. Rathwick told the Officers that he had spent a great deal of time in prison, and he had told himself that if he was ever in trouble with the law again, he was going to die before being sent back to prison.



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Rathwick was arrested and booked into the Mendocino County Jail for charges of 496d(a) PC - possession of a stolen vehicle, 69(a) PC – resisting arrest by force or threat, and 11377(a) H&S - possession of a controlled substance. The stolen Mazda was towed and stored so that it could be returned to Enterprise Rental Car.

As always, UPD's mission is to make Ukiah as safe a place as possible, and we are grateful for the help and support that we receive from the community. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cellphone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website; www.ukiahpolice.com.

