



Thomas Corning
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE: UPD CASE 25-2995

Date: 12-31-2025

Location: E. Gobbi St and Waugh Lane., Ukiah.

Suspect: Robert Hanover, 58-year-old male Ukiah resident

Violations:

- 23152(g) VC – Driving Under the Influence Drug/Alcohol (Misdemeanor)
- 12500 VC – Driving Without a License (Misdemeanor)

On December 31st, 2025, at approximately 10:43 PM, a Ukiah Police Department officer was responding to a call for service in the area of Waugh Lane and E. Gobbi Street in Ukiah. During the officer's response he observed a gold colored Mercury Grand Marquis traveling at a high rate of speed northbound on Waugh Lane.

The driver of the vehicle was later identified as Robert Hanover, a 58-year-old male from Ukiah. Robert proceeded northbound through the intersection of Waugh Lane and E. Gobbi Street traveling over the north curb and ultimately crashing into a vacant commercial building in the 300 block of E. Gobbi Street.

The officer quickly exited his patrol vehicle to check on the occupants of the vehicle. He was able to hear two subjects inside conscious and speaking. The passenger, Thomas Hanover (29- year old Ukiah male), was able to self-extricate himself from the vehicle and declined any medical treatment. He told the officer that Robert Hanover had consumed an alcoholic beverage prior to operating the vehicle.

Due to the damage caused to the vehicle during the crash, Robert was unable to exit the vehicle and had to be extricated by the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority. Robert complained of neck, back, and head pain. The officer noted that Robert had a small abrasion on his forehead and he was ultimately transported to the Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Emergency Room for treatment. Roberts injuries appeared to be minor to moderate in nature.



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During the investigation it was believed that Robert was driving while under the influence of a drug or alcohol. Due to his medical treatment a statement or field sobriety tests could not be obtained. While seeking medical treatment a blood sample was obtained and charges will be submitted to the Mendocino County District Attorneys Office.

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: Lieutenant C. Rigby