Grant County drunk driver chases, threatens school bus driver

by Cheryl McDermott

A 55-year old Long Creek, Oregon, man was arrested Wednesday afternoon following a bizarre series of actions by the allegedly drunk driver that included chasing a school bus with children aboard, stopping sideways in the highway in front of it, jumping out of his car, threatening the driver and yelling that he was placing her under arrest, police reported.

Roy Eugene Mercer - GCSO photo Roy Eugene Mercer was taken into custody a short time after the incident when an Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper and Grant County Sheriffâ€™s deputy found him at home. Mercer, 55, was uncooperative and was taken into custody after a brief struggle, OSP reported.

According to Trooper Mary Ritter, a female school bus driver with two passengers, a girl and boy aged 12 and 13, was traveling south on Highway 395 near milepost 92 about 4:20 p.m., January 30, when Mercer passed the bus as he drove north in his 1985 Chevrolet Sprint.

The bus driver told police that Mercer skidded to a stop, turned around, chased the bus up the hill and then passed it. Mercer brought his car to an abrupt stop, sideways in her lane of traffic and forced the bus to stop.

According to witness statements, Mercer jumped out of his car, aggressively postured, yelled at the driver and then told her he was placing her under arrest â€œbecause one of the lights on the bus was burned outâ€•.

Frightened for the children and herself, the driver backed down the icy highway, turned around and drove back to Long Creek with Mercer in pursuit. When she got to town, troopers said, she called 911 and lost sight of Mercer.

Following his arrest, Mercer was lodged in the Grant County Jail and was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants; reckless driving; disorderly conduct; and three counts each of coercion, menacing, and recklessly endangering another person.

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