



Press Release: Two in custody following traffic stop

Date: 07-23-2025

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On July 23, 2025, around 1:11 pm a Joplin Police officer was conducting patrol efforts around 24th and Range Line Road. The patrol officer recognized an individual, later identified as Mark Trease, 30, of Carthage, in the Lowes parking lot. Trease had active warrants from Carthage Missouri. The police officer attempted to contact Trease before he left the lot. Trease refused to comply with the officer and fled the parking lot in his vehicle.

Trease then drove approximately one block away and parked the vehicle in the parking lot of Pinnacle Bank located at 2433 S Range Line Road. Trease again refused to comply with officers and remained in the vehicle. Officers were able to see a second person inside the vehicle, and he also refused to cooperate with officers. Additional officers were summoned to the scene to assist. Trease and his passenger, later identified as Sean Gillis, 32, of Webb City, Missouri, continued to refuse to comply with officers.

When additional officers arrived, Trease eventually complied with officers and was taken into custody without incident. Shortly after taking Trease into custody, it was learned that Gillis was armed with a handgun, and he continued to refuse to cooperate with officers.

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Due to the active fleeing, refusal to cooperate with officers, the incident being in a heavily populated area with local patrons and businesses, and the fact that the passenger was armed with a gun, Joplin Police Department S.W.A.T. was called to the scene. Joplin officers assisted customers from the bank to safe locations and continued to speak with Gillis.

After the Joplin Police Department S.W.A.T. arrived, Gillis eventually complied with officers and was taken into custody without incident.

The driver, Mark Trease, was arrested on four outstanding warrants for traffic violations and two warrants for resisting arrest from Carthage, Missouri. Trease was also arrested on two bench warrants for obstruction from the City of Joplin. Charges from today were submitted on Trease for resisting arrest, no valid driver license, and failing to yield to an emergency vehicle.

The passenger, Sean Gillis, was arrested for resisting arrest and compliance with the officer for information.

One loaded 9mm handgun was located and seized from the vehicle after Gillis was taken into custody.

At this time, there is no threat to the public regarding this incident.

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Attached you will find the mugshot for Trease but there currently is not one available for Gillis.