

Driver hits pole while fleeing from authorities

By Laura Bond

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An Arcadia man fleeing from police was knocked unconscious in a vehicle wreck on Saturday before being arrested on numerous charges.

Antonio Richardson, 25, remained at the Lincoln Parish Detention Center this morning with bond that remains to be set for aggravated flight.

Ruston Police Public Information Officer Lt. Curtis Hawkins said at approximately 3 p.m. Saturday, an officer monitoring traffic on West California Avenue near Tech Farm Road spotted a westbound vehicle traveling well above the posted speed limit.

"The officer stopped the driver, who was unable to produce a driver's license and who gave a name and date of birth that later turned out to be false," Hawkins said.

"The driver showed signs of alcohol impairment."

Hawkins said when the officer walked back to his vehicle to run the driver's information, Richardson cranked his car, accelerated and headed west at a high rate of speed.

The officer pursued the driver until Richardson lost control, struck a traffic pole and flipped his vehicle at the intersection of U.S. 80 and Louisiana 3005 near Grambling.

Ruston Ambulance Service transported the driver to Northern Louisiana Medical Center, where Hawkins said Richardson refused treatment for minor injuries.

Richardson was then arrested for speeding, no seat belt, driving under suspension, aggravated flight, reckless operation of a vehicle, resisting an officer, open container, simple criminal damage to property and DWI.