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The Blue Banner

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High-speed chase ends in arrest

By Michael Pauciello
News Editor

A UNCA campus police officer, aided by the Asheville police, apprehended a man following a high-speed car chase through Asheville Monday.

Police charged Robert Stafford Webb III, 31, of San Diego, Calif., on numerous counts, including carrying a concealed weapon, assault on a law enforcement officer, felony hit and run, resisting arrest, reckless driving and doing 95 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone.

Campus police officer Richard Bernier followed Webb off campus at approximately 12:30 p.m. after asking him to leave campus.

The chase, which included Bernier's campus police car and nine Asheville police cars, ended when police surrounded Webb's car and stopped him near the Haywood Road exit of I-240 in West Asheville.

Bernier said he followed Webb because he failed to stop at a stop sign. While still on campus, Webb nearly hit two pedestrians, according to Bernier. Bernier requested assistance from Asheville police once Webb left campus on Edgewood Road.

The chase continued with Bernier following Webb around Beaver Lake and onto Highway 19-23 South before police stopped Webb on I-240 at about 1:10 p.m.

"At one point I was doing 105 just to catch up," said Bernier. When Webb got out of his car, it took two

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Reflections

A forked tree casts its image on a calm stream in the UNCA Botanical Gardens.

Staff Photo--Chris Allison

This could be a last scene of summer as cooler weather approaches and the leaves start to turn.