

Escapee apprehended after 5-state journey

Written by Gothenburg Times
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A four-day road trip that covered five states ended on July 28 in Colorado for an escapee from custody of the Dawson County Sheriff's Office.

Jacob Donald Wolsleben, 26, escaped July 24 from Dawson County Jail custody while being treated at the Tri-County Hospital in Lexington.

Dawson County Sheriff Gary Reiber gave the following account of his trek to avoid recapture.

Wolsleben ran from the hospital wearing a hospital gown and pants while connected to an IV. He went to his mother's house a block or two from the hospital and then left his mothers' house in a 2010 black Chevy Silverado four-door pickup with fictitious plate number 9D119, owned by his girlfriend, Sabrina Wiederholdt, 33, of Lexington.

On Saturday, July 24, at 6 p.m. Rock County Nebraska Sheriff's Office pursued a stolen 2010 Chevy pickup twice, but the suspect was able to elude deputies both times.

Sunday, July 25, the 2010 Chevy pickup was recovered at Bonesteel, SD. Another vehicle, a white 1997 Dodge pickup, was reported stolen nearby.

At approximately 10 a.m. on Sunday, the stolen 1997 Dodge pickup from South Dakota was recovered at Ravenna in Buffalo County. A silver 2009 Ford Expedition was reported stolen from Ravenna. Credit cards in the stolen Expedition were used to purchase gas at Denton, southwest of Lincoln.

On Monday, July 26, credit cards from the stolen Expedition were used at Bunker Hill, KS.

On Tuesday, July 27, the same credit cards were declined at Estes Park, CO. With the assistance of Verizon Wireless, suspect Wolsleben and cell phones were tracked from

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Interstate 25 near Colorado Springs, CO, north on I-25 into Wyoming to just north of Cheyenne, WY, and returning to Colorado.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, July 28, the suspect was identified by motel staff at Stratton, CO, where he checked in using the name Michael Larson. He had already left the area and was tracked again by Verizon Wireless through Colorado traveling east on I-70 into Kansas, as far east as Colby, KS.

At approximately 5:15 p.m. on July 28, Wolsleben had returned to a service station in Stratton, CO, where the attendant recognized him and notified Kit Carson County Sheriff's Office.

The suspect fled from the Kit Carson deputies and was finally apprehended in Lincoln County, CO. The 2009 Ford Expedition stolen from Ravenna in Buffalo County, was recovered bearing Colorado license plates.