



OFFICE OF SHERIFF

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Date of Release: **December 20, 2018**

Nature: Accident investigation and arrests

Agency: O'Brien County Sheriff's Office

On December 18, 2018 at approximately 3:00 PM, the O'Brien County Sheriff's Office received several 911 calls reporting a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of 340th St and Warbler Ave south of Hartley. One vehicle was in the ditch and a second vehicle had left the scene and was later located approximately one half mile into Clay County on 340th Street. Deputies from the Clay and O'Brien County Sheriff's Offices and the Iowa State Patrol responded to the scene.

The two vehicles involved in this collision were a black 2001 Mercedes driven by 28 year old Jacob Hunefeld of Peoria, Arizona and a 2001 Chevy Suburban driven by 18 year old RJ Cole of Ayrshire, Iowa. Investigation into the collision showed that it stemmed from an earlier incident involving the sale of the Mercedes by Terry Brown of Royal, Iowa to Sarah Graves of Hartley, Iowa. Brown alleged that Graves didn't pay the full amount needed for the car when they met in Royal, Iowa earlier that day to complete the transaction. Graves said she would have to return to her residence in Hartley, Iowa to get the remaining money owed on the car. Brown agreed to this and sent RJ Cole in another vehicle to follow Graves and Hunefeld back to Hartley to get the money. Along the way, Cole said it became apparent that Hunefeld and Graves weren't going to stop and get the money. Eventually Cole decided to attempt to get Hunefeld to stop at the intersection of 340th St and Warbler Ave. At the time, Cole was ahead of Hunefeld as they headed southbound on Warbler Ave south of Hartley. Hunefeld attempted to turn east onto 340th Street. Cole maneuvered his vehicle in a way to attempt to force Hunefeld to stop. Hunefeld instead accelerated to try to get around Cole before the road was blocked. In the process, the two vehicles collided sending Cole's vehicle into the south ditch and the Mercedes driven by Hunefeld continued eastbound on 340th Street, even though it sustained significant damage. Hunefeld eventually travelled into Clay County on 340th Street before he was forced to stop due to the Mercedes being disabled from the damage in the collision.

Terry Brown had driven to the initial accident location and picked up Cole. Together they drove to the location of Hunefeld and Graves. There, an argument ensued during which Brown is alleged to have pushed Hunefeld.

A deputy from the O'Brien County Sheriff's Office arrested 18-year-old RJ Cole on a charge of Reckless Driving and a second charge of Simple Assault. Both charges are simple misdemeanors and Cole was booked into the O'Brien County Jail. Cole will make an appearance in O'Brien County Magistrate Court at a later time.

A deputy from the Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Terry Brown for simple assault for his role in the portion of the altercation that occurred there. Brown was transported to the Clay County Jail and booked into jail on the assault charge. Brown will later make an appearance in Clay County Magistrate Court.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.