

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

Intoxicated Woman Flees from Traffic Stop, Crashes Car

On February 27, 2022, at approximately 3:05 a.m., a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a 2013 BMW 3-Series, on Route 173 near Joanna Avenue, Zion. The deputy conducted the traffic stop because the driver was traveling at a speed of 81MPH in a 40MPH zone.

The sheriff's deputy spoke to the driver, Vanessa Pimentel, 27, of the 100 block of South Butrick Street, Waukegan. While speaking to Pimentel, she put the car in drive and fled eastbound on Route 173 from the traffic stop at a high rate of speed.

The sheriff's deputy did not pursue Pimentel but the deputy drove eastbound on Route 173. The sheriff's deputy located the BMW crashed, with significant damage, at Route 173 and Gilboa Avenue, Zion. It appears Pimentel failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway, went off the road, and struck a tree.

Sheriff's deputies determined Pimentel was driving under the influence of alcohol and she also was driving with a revoked driver's license. She was subsequently transported to an area hospital with significant injuries. Sheriff's deputies charged Pimentel with (court date pending):

DUI – Alcohol
Fleeing and Eluding
Driving While License Revoked
Aggravated Speeding

Zion Police Department responded to the scene of the crash and requested the assistance of the Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT), due to Pimentel's injuries.

Pimentel remains hospitalized for her injuries sustained in the crash. It is likely charges will be upgraded by the Lake

County State's Attorney's Office at a later time.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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