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News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471
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Man Arrested After Child Seriously Injured in DUI Accident

Pueblo, CO: A 27-year-old man was arrested late Tuesday following a one-vehicle accident on the Colorado State University-Pueblo campus that left a child seriously injured.

Deputies responded to the report of an accident on Bartley Boulevard, near the CSU-Pueblo ball fields at about 9:45 p.m. and found a Ford F-150 truck had hit a concrete post. The truck sustained heavy damage. No one was in the truck and deputies were unable to immediately locate any occupants of the vehicle.

A witness told deputies after the accident, they saw a man carrying a child, walking away from the truck. The witness stopped and asked if help was needed and the man said no and continued walking west from the area.

Deputies searched the campus and a field west of the university for nearly an hour in an attempt to locate the man and child. In the meantime, Pueblo Police received a call from an individual reporting a suspicious person walking in the 100 block of Gamble Lane, which is approximately one mile from the site of the accident. The individual reported seeing a man, carrying a child, walking, stumbling and falling several times. A short time later, it was reported that sheriff's deputies, working with Pueblo Police, located a man and his four-year-old son nearby in a gully just east of the intersection of Troy Avenue and Massari Road.

The man, identified as Keanu T. Valdez, is the registered owner of the truck involved in the accident. Valdez, who was uncooperative with deputies, was taken into custody. The child was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries. He was later transported to a Colorado Springs hospital for further treatment of his injuries.

The preliminary investigation into the accident determined Valdez was driving north on Bartley Boulevard at a high rate of speed when he went off the left side of the roadway and hit the concrete post. It was determined Valdez was wearing a seat belt and the child was unrestrained in the vehicle. Alcohol is suspected to be involved in the accident.

Valdez was arrested for vehicular assault, leaving the scene of an accident involving serious

bodily injury, DUI, child abuse, criminal mischief, reckless endangerment, reckless driving and resisting arrest. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

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