

Sheriff's deputy injured after traffic stop

By KORIE WILKINS • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • February 29, 2008

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An Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputy was injured after authorities say a 28-year-old man tried to flee after a traffic stop in Pontiac.

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And now, authorities are looking for Enricque Lerone Strickland, saying he's armed and dangerous.

According to a press release from the sheriff's office, the deputy stopped a black Nissan Altima at about 7:30 a.m. on Friday on Perry Street in Pontiac. The driver was speeding and the deputy thought he might be fleeing. After the Altima stopped, the deputy -- a 29-year veteran -- tried to help the driver out of the car. The deputy saw a semi-automatic handgun in the car and tried to grab the gun. He was standing between the open door and the car itself when the driver tried to shift the car into drive. The deputy told the driver to put the car into park, but the driver ignored the deputy and accelerated, pinning the deputy and slightly dragging him before knocking him off the pavement.

The Altima was found about a 1/2 mile away -- empty -- but still running.

Authorities say Strickland has a felony record, including convictions for fleeing and eluding, resisting arrest, obstructing arrest and theft.

Warrants were obtained today Friday charging Strickland with carrying a concealed weapon, felony fleeing and the commission of felony with a motor vehicle. If convicted, he could face up to five years in prison.

The deputy is assigned to the sheriff's Alcohol Enforcement Team, which has been doing patrols in Pontiac in the past few weeks as the Pontiac Police Department grapples with layoffs. The deputy received four stitches on his eyebrow area and was bruised. He also injured his knee. He'll be off work for several days.

There is a \$1,000 reward being offered through CrimeStoppers. Call 1-800- 773-2587.