



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT\*\*\*\***  
**K-9 Farel Takes Wanted Felon Into Custody**

February 11, 2016

Detectives from the Career Criminal Apprehension Team contacted residents at 317 Grape Street yesterday to arrest 2 wanted suspects whose vehicle was parked in the driveway. Liberty R. M. Luster, 32, was wanted on Probable Cause for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine), and a charge of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Benito S. Landa, 31, was wanted for 3 felony warrants out of Umatilla County and a misdemeanor warrant out of Benton County.

The officers were allowed to search the residence and Deputies from the Sheriff's Office assisted. Officers discovered a hidden door under a bed that led into the cellar. The door was opened and officers called out for any occupants to come out. Luster immediately came out and was taken into custody without incident.

Landa remained hidden in the cellar and refused to acknowledge the officers commands to exit the cellar. An investigation by Milton-Freewater Police Department 2 days earlier indicated that Landa was involved in a domestic violence call and had made statements indicating that he would rather have an armed confrontation with the police than go back to prison.

Officers continued their efforts verbally to convince Landa to give himself up, warning him that the K-9 would be sent into the cellar to affect the arrest. This went on for several minutes with negative results. K-9 Farel was sent into the cellar and immediately gained control of Landa, who then complied and was taken into custody. Landa was treated for minor dog bites on his arm and back at a local hospital, no sutures required, and lodged in jail.

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