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******PRESS RELEASE****WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT******
Collision Victim Remains in Critical Condition

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A 35-year-old Walla Walla resident remains in critical, but stable condition following a collision on Isaacs Avenue, near the intersection of Cascade Drive. Andrea L. Lowe was pulling out of the Chevron station when her 2004, Chevrolet Malibu was struck by an eastbound 1995, Volvo, driven at a high rate of speed by Kamden T. Knaus, 26, Walla Walla.

The collision occurred Tuesday morning at 11:47 when Knaus was allegedly racing a 1999, Honda Civic driven by Rick Placencia-Torres, 20, College Place. Witnesses reported speeds of approximately 60 mph leading up to the collision. The posted speed limit on Isaacs in this area is 30 mph. Placencia-Torres had been stopped by a WWPD officer about 1 hour prior to the collision and cited for an equipment violation.

Lowe suffered severe internal injuries and a broken pelvis as a result of the wreck when the Knaus vehicle struck the driver's side of her vehicle. She was flown to a Seattle area hospital for emergency surgery. Her 10-year-old son was in the front seat on the passenger side of the vehicle. He suffered a possible broken jaw and was treated and released at a local hospital.

Knaus was taken into custody and is being held on 2 counts of Vehicular Assault. There were 2 passengers in his vehicle at the time of the crash—Zachary T. Hill, 27, and Heidi N. Nelson, 18. Nelson was transported to a local hospital for treatment for unknown injuries.

Placencia-Torres was interviewed by an officer at the scene. He was able to avoid the collision as he had slowed down prior to the impact.

The Washington State Patrol and Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office personnel assisted at the scene. A street crew from the City blocked off Isaacs Ave. for about 4 hours while the scene was processed.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges may be sought.

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Tim Bennett #245

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