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Tip to police leads to third DUI arrest

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Concerned citizen reported erratic driver to Sebastopol Police Department

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A tip from a concerned motorist steered the Sebastopol Police Department to the whereabouts of a drunk driver Monday evening.

At around 5 p.m., a caller reported seeing a possible DUI driver heading into town on Bodega Highway. The caller said the vehicle was "swerving, passing over the double yellow lines, and had nearly driven into a ditch," Sebastopol Police Chief Jeff Weaver said.

When officers intercepted the vehicle on Bodega Avenue they allegedly noted vegetation hanging from under the vehicle, suggesting the driver had not kept his car on the roadway.

There was no question, however, when officers used a breathalyzer on the driver, identified as Adrian Perez Lopez, of Windsor, and his BAC was determined to be over .15 percent; nearly twice the legal limit, according to police.

This was Lopez' third DUI arrest; the first was in Sonoma County in 2004; the second in San Bernardino County in 2008. Lopez has been cited for driving without a driver's license four times previously; during both of his DUI arrests and in 2005 and 2009.

He has three active suspensions on his DMV record; one for excessive blood alcohol level, one for DUI and for failure to attend DUI school, Weaver said.

Lopez also has a \$50,000 warrant for his arrest from San Bernardino County based on the DUI arrest there in 2008.

The Sebastopol Police Department is seeking charges of DUI, driving without a license, and three counts of driving on a suspended license.

When the court process is completed in Sonoma County, Lopez will be returned to San Bernardino County, Weaver said. "Following that, it is likely he will be deported; Immigration and Customs Enforcement has placed a detainer on him at the Sonoma County Jail," he said, adding, "Within the last two weeks a four-year old child was run over and killed by a repeat unlicensed driver and it's just not acceptable."

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Friday DUI checkpoint comes up empty

More than 900 cars passed through a sobriety/driver's license checkpoint conducted by the Sebastopol Police Department last Friday on Sebastopol Avenue.

During the four-and-a-half-hour checkpoint — held from 6:30 to 11 p.m. — three people were cited for driving without a driver's license, and three people were cited for driving on a suspended license.

Two vehicles were towed for these violations. Four people were screened for possible DUI, but were determined to be not under the influence of alcohol, according to the SPD.