

Island man accused of DWI in collision with deputy

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A Grand Island motorist was accused of driving drunk late Monday night after colliding with an Erie County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle on the island, Sheriff Timothy B. Howard reported this morning.

Deputy Jim Welch, responding to a report of a violent domestic argument, was traveling south on Baseline Road at about 11:20 p.m. when a vehicle driven by Francis B. Volante, 54, pulled out in front of him, the sheriff said. Welch and Volante were treated at the scene by volunteer firefighters and an ambulance crew before they were taken to Erie County Medical Center for further treatment.

The sheriff said a blood sample was taken from Volante; results are pending. Volante remained in the emergency room this morning, while Welch apparently was released after treatment.

Deputy Jeff Ely of the sheriff's accident investigation unit charged Volante with a felony count of driving while intoxicated because of a previous DWI conviction, in 2004. Volante also was charged with unspecified traffic infractions.

An investigation continues.