

LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

On May 22, 2014 at approximately 2:40 a.m. a Lemoore police officer heard the sheriff's office being dispatched to Jersey Avenue at Alkali Avenue for a possible DUI driver. The DUI driver was reported to be Leslie Lewis, a 21 year old male who lives on the reservation. Lewis was last seen driving northbound on 17th Avenue from Jersey Avenue in a silver Ford Fusion. At about 2:50 a.m. the Lemoore officer was at the stop sign on Iona Avenue at S. Lemoore Avenue facing east when he saw a silver Ford Fusion westbound on Iona Avenue at S. Lemoore Avenue. The driver of the Ford stopped at the stop sign for several seconds before driving west on Iona Avenue and past the officer. Once the Ford passed the officer, the driver accelerated rapidly.

The Lemoore officer made a u-turn in order to stop the vehicle, which reached a speed of about 60 mph before the driver turned south onto Vine Street. The officer turned on his emergency lights and siren, but the driver continued southbound on Vine Street, reaching a speed of about 100 mph before braking rapidly and turning eastbound onto a dirt road between two fields. The officer discontinued the pursuit because there was too much dust for him to safely see the suspect and the road in front of him.

At approximately 7:00 a.m. Lemoore police officers responded to the area of S. Lemoore Avenue south of the Lemoore Golf Course for a report that a male was chasing two other males. While investigating that report, the officers contacted Leslie Lewis, who was walking in the 800 block of Champion Street. Lewis was arrested for a felony charge of evading a police officer. He was booked at the Kings County Jail and his bail was set at \$35,000. His vehicle, the silver Ford Fusion, was located with front end damage on a canal bank south of Indiana Avenue and was towed from the scene.