

# LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PRESS RELEASE

On June 3, 2014 at about 1:45 a.m. Lemoore police officers were dispatched to a home in the 700 block of Oakdale Lane for a report of a vehicle theft that had just occurred. The victim said she could still hear her vehicle in the area because it had a loud muffler. The vehicle was described as a blue Honda Civic with a primer engine hood. A Lemoore police officer saw a vehicle matching that description going northbound on State Route 41 at Hanford Armona Road. The vehicle had a loud muffler. The officer pulled in behind the vehicle and the driver sped up to 80 mph and then 90 mph. The officer attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle as it approached Grangeville Blvd., but the driver refused to stop and sped up to about 105 mph. A second Lemoore police officer was able to join the pursuit. The suspect exited State Route 41 at Excelsior Avenue and went westbound. The driver changed directions several times, driving north and then west on several rural surface streets, failing to stop for several stop signs. The majority of the time the vehicle was traveling under 80 mph on these surface streets. Air support was requested and a California Highway Patrol airplane arrived within 8 minutes and was able to maintain visual contact on the stolen vehicle while coordinating the officers on the ground. The Lemoore officers terminated the pursuit when the suspect drove into a grape vineyard, creating too much dust for the officers to continue safely.

Officers in the airplane saw the suspects abandoned the vehicle in an orchard near Elkhorn Avenue and Marks Avenue in Fresno County and flee on foot. Fresno County deputies, California Highway Patrol officers, and a Kings County K-9 deputy assisted the Lemoore police officers and a perimeter was set up around the area. The driver, 22 year old Julio Ybarra of Caruthers, was taken into custody about 30 minutes later. The passenger, 26 year old George Rosario of Fresno, was taken into custody at about 5:00 a.m. by Fresno County deputies. Both suspects were turned over to the Lemoore officers. The pursuit lasted about 14 minutes and covered about 16 miles. There were no other vehicles on the roads during this pursuit and nobody was injured.

Ybarra was booked at the Kings County Jail for vehicle theft, felony evading a police officer, possession of burglary tools, and conspiracy. His bail was set at \$140,000. Rosario was booked at the Kings County Jail for vehicle theft and conspiracy. His bail was set at \$100,000.