

LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday December 31, 2014 at about 1:42 a.m., a Lemoore police officer saw a gray Dodge Challenger accelerating at a high rate speed in the 200-300 block of W. Hanford Armona Road. The driver was accelerating so quickly that the rear of the car was losing traction and fishtailing. The officer estimated the vehicle's speed to be approximately 55 mph in a posted 35 mph zone. The officer attempted a traffic enforcement stop on the vehicle but the driver failed to yield and a vehicle pursuit was initiated.

The driver, later identified as 25 year old Colin Sepsey of Lemoore, continued westbound on W. Hanford Armona Road, reaching a speed of about 100 mph. He then slowed to enter a residential area, still attempting to evade the officer. Sepsey drove across the front yard of a residence on Persimmon Street after failing to negotiate a turn due to his speed, causing minor damage to the lawn but shearing off the left front wheel of the Challenger when it hit the curb. The pursuit ended about one block away when Sepsey drove across the front yard of a residence on Butternut Street and collided with a car parked in the driveway and the garage door area of the home.

Additional Lemoore police officers, including their canine unit, arrived on scene to assist with the arrest. The officers gave Sepsey repeated commands to show his hands but he refused. At one point the officers saw Sepsey reaching for something in the area of the center console. The canine handler gave Sepsey repeated commands to show both of his hands or he would be bitten by the canine but Sepsey refused to comply. Sepsey then began to exit the vehicle but would not show his right hand, instead reaching towards his waistband area. The canine officer then saw a black object in Sepsey's right hand. Believing Sepsey to be armed with a weapon, the officer released his canine partner, Ares. Ares attempted to bit Sepsey in the stomach, which caused him to drop the object that was in his hand. The officers could then see that the object was a cell phone. The canine officer ordered Ares to release Sepsey, which he did, and the officers took him into custody.

Officers found drug paraphernalia in the vehicle and concentrated cannabis on Sepsey's person. Officers smelled a strong odor of alcohol emitting from Sepsey's person during his arrest and, after conducting a DUI investigation, he was arrested for suspicion of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Sepsey was treated at the hospital for minor injuries resulting from the arrest. He was then booked into the Kings County Jail for felony evading, resisting arrest, driving on a suspended license, and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. His bail was set at \$45,000.