

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER



DATE : 01-22-11

SUBJECT: Chico Vehicle Pursuit

RELEASED BY: Sgt. Derek Bell

CONTACT # : (530) 538-7321

On Friday, January 22, 2011 at 3:25 a.m., Butte County Sheriff's Deputy J. Beller, attempted to contact a suspicious vehicle parked in front of the Spirits of America store located at 2269 Nord Ave. in Chico. In the past, this store has been the location of numerous vandalisms and burglaries while the business is closed. The vehicle, a 1996 Honda Accord, began to quickly back away from Deputy Beller as he approached. The vehicle backed out of the store parking lot, onto Glenwood Ave. and continued backing at a high rate of speed across Nord Ave. and onto W. Lindo Ave. The vehicle then began driving southbound on Nord Ave. and continued to flee while driving at a high rate of speed. Butte County Sheriff's Deputies followed the vehicle as it fled through numerous city streets and eventually began driving westbound on Chico River Rd. The vehicle reached speeds in excess of 80 mph as it drove toward the intersection of Chico River Rd. and Ord Ferry Rd, at which point it drove into a field, turned around and began driving eastbound on Chico River Rd. The vehicle again drove at a high rate of speed until Chico Police officers deployed a spike strip and punctured the front two tires of the vehicle. The vehicle's speed immediately slowed until both of the front tires had gone completely flat. With the front two tires flat, the vehicle turned northbound on Hickory St. where it subsequently drove through a large chain link fence at the north dead-end portion of Hickory St. between W. 4th St. and W. 3rd St. Once the vehicle came to rest, deputies found the driver had fled and one passenger remained in the vehicle, who was subsequently detained without incident. Sheriff's deputies and Chico Police officers set up a perimeter on the area, but the search failed to locate the driver. The passenger, Jacob Tracy, a 20 year old Chico resident, was questioned about this incident and was subsequently booked into the Butte County Jail on a charge of public intoxication.

The registered owner of the vehicle was contacted and it was later determined the vehicle was an un-reported stolen vehicle from the area of W. 5th St. and Oak St. in Chico. The pursuit lasted approximately 25 minutes and covered approximately 20 miles. No other vehicles were damaged and no citizens were injured during this pursuit.

The investigation into the identity of the driver is ongoing. Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office at (530) 538-7321.