



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



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<http://www.facebook.com/CeresPoliceDepartment#!/CeresPoliceDepartment>

NEWS RELEASE

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Auto Thief Arrested After Ramming Ceres Police Cars

Ceres, California - On August 26, 2012 at 11:23 PM, a Ceres Police Officer spotted stolen tan Honda Accord that was reported stolen from the City of Turlock at the intersection of Herndon and Hatch Road, occupied by two people.

When the officer initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle, the driver of the Honda, 33 year old Daniel Leon from Ceres, decided to attempt to elude the officer and a police chase ensued. The pursuit traveled eastbound on Hatch Road, where Leon drove in the westbound lanes of Hatch Road and turned north on Mitchell Road reaching speeds of 90 mph – twice the posted speed limit.

Daniel Leon led the chase into the Airport district of Modesto and lost control of the car at the intersection of Tenaya and Santa Cruz. Ceres officers tried to box Leon in an attempt to end the pursuit, but he rammed three Ceres Police vehicles disabling two of them and continued to flee. The third police car sustained minor damage and remained in the pursuit.

The pursuit continued through the Airport District where Leon veered the stolen vehicle head-on towards Ceres officers. Daniel Leon lost control of his car again at the intersection of Empire and Tioga, colliding into a chain link fence and taking out two mailboxes. Daniel Leon then collided into the third Ceres Police car and continued his path of destruction, driving back onto Empire Road where a Ceres Police sergeant was forced to take evasive action by pulling into the shoulder of the road to avoid the high-speed, head-on collision.

Daniel Leon traveled for about a block until he lost control of the vehicle again and Ceres officers were able to box the stolen vehicle in, at which time, Daniel Leon and his passenger ran from the stolen car. Daniel Leon was apprehended by police, but his passenger escaped. Modesto Police Department assisted in the incident by setting up a perimeter and attempting to apprehend the passenger. The search stopped after a police K-9 track had negative results.

One Ceres officer sustained minor injuries and did not require medical attention. Daniel Leon was booked for felony evasion, assault on peace officers with a deadly weapon, possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property, and resisting arrest.

The Ceres Police Department is asking anyone with information on this case to please call Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers at:

Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME

Text Tips: "274637" TIP704 in the wording

Website: www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers