

LEMOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

On Thursday, March 27, 2014 at approximately 3:30 PM, Lemoore police officers were in the bus parking zone at Lemoore High School while the students were getting on the bus to go home. A high school campus supervisor pointed out a young male and said he was not a student so he should not be on the campus. The officers went to contact the subject, later identified as 18 year old Alberto Macias Balladeras of Stratford, to ask him to leave the campus. As they approached Balladeras he walked to his car, which was parked in the high school parking lot, and got in the driver's seat. One officer knocked on the driver's door window and Balladeras looked at him and then put the vehicle in reverse. The officer told him to stop but Balladeras refused.

A second police officer was approaching the car and had made it to the rear of the car when Balladeras started backing up. That officer saw Balladeras backing up so he started walking backwards and to the side to keep from being run over. As he did this he was hitting the trunk of the car to get the driver's attention but the driver continued to back out of the parking space. The officer was able to get out of the way of the car without being injured and Balladeras fled southbound on S. Lemoore Avenue.

Balladeras continued southbound on S. Lemoore Avenue, reaching speeds of up to 100 mph and running stop signs. He slowed down when he approached other traffic and intersections. Balladeras fled from the officers on county roads until he reached his home on Main Street in Stratford. Lemoore Police Department's K-9 officer and his partner, Ares, had joined the pursuit and were at the termination point. Balladeras was taken into custody without further incident. Balladeras said he fled from the officers because he does not have a driver's license and he did not want his mother's car to get towed. He also said that he did not see the officer behind the car and did not hear him banging on the car when he began to back out of the parking space at the high school.

Balladeras was booked at the Kings County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, evading a police officer, trespassing on school campus, being an unlicensed driver, and a gang enhancement. His bail was set at \$115,000.