



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

On March 24th at about 6:20 PM Ukiah Police responded to the Pear Tree Center, at 514 East Perkins Street, for a traffic collision wherein a vehicle had struck a pedestrian. The investigating sergeant determined 26 year old Nicholas Kent Tow was driving his blue Toyota Prius, and struck the 44 year female victim as she walked in the parking lot. The victim rolled onto the hood and fell to the ground, and suffered minor injuries and was transported to the Ukiah Valley Medical Center for treatment.

Tow's driver's license was found to be suspended, and as the sergeant was preparing a citation for Tow, the sergeant saw 30 year old Jose Alberto Mora Mejia walking near-by. The sergeant knew Mejia had a felony warrant his arrest for being a felon in possession of a firearm, and attempted to contact Mejia who suddenly fled. The sergeant pursued Mejia onto North Orchard Avenue, and was joined by other Ukiah Police Officers and citizens as the foot pursuit continued into the Home Depot parking lot. Mejia was apprehended in the parking lot, and arrested for the warrant and for resisting arrest.

The sergeant returned to the scene of the traffic collision to finish the investigation, and was contacted by the husband of the victim. The sergeant learned the husband had ridden his bicycle to the scene to check on his wife, and that it was stolen from where he had left it leaning against the side of a business. A witness informed the sergeant the suspect was seen heading towards McDonalds with the stolen bicycle, and provided a description of the suspect. The sergeant located the bicycle leaning against the exterior wall of McDonalds, and saw the suspect walking near-by and onto North Orchard Avenue. The sergeant contacted 29 year old Tommy Joel White, of Maine, who admitted taking the bicycle, claiming he was just going to "hold onto it". White was arrested for possessing stolen property.

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Prepared by Captain Justin Wyatt



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