



Date: Monday, February 18, 2008

Location: City of Banning

Incident: Pursuit

On 02-18-08, at about 2111 hours, Banning Police Officers observed a vehicle driving east bound in the west bound traffic lanes in the area of the 5000 block of W. Ramsey Street. When officers activated their overhead lights, the suspect continued at a low speed through intersections, failing to yield or listen to officer's commands.

As the suspect's vehicle approached the north end of Sunrise, he attempted to turn east bound onto Eclipse. The vehicle slid off the road, knocking over a street sign. The vehicle was stuck; however, the suspect continued spinning the wheels trying to escape. Officers were giving verbal commands for him to stop and turn the vehicle off. The suspect then freed the vehicle and continued to flee.

A short time later, the suspect drove toward Officers, who moved away. The suspect slowly tried to drive between the curb and a police unit. The suspect vehicle hit the side of the police unit and wedged between the unit and the curb. While making eye contact with the suspect, officers gave orders to stop the vehicle and put his hands up. The suspect ignored the orders. After stopping momentarily, the suspect continued and drove through the fence and into a dirt field. The vehicle became temporarily stuck in the field; however, the suspect was still spinning the tires attempting to free the vehicle. The vehicle became unstuck and the suspect began backing the vehicle. The vehicle made a reverse u-turn and sideswiped a block wall. The vehicle was stuck again, however, the suspect continued attempting to free the vehicle. Officers approached the vehicle and took the suspect into custody without further incident.

The driver was identified a Levon Bruke, 23 years old, from Banning. Based on Burke's behavior officers suspected he was under the influence of a controlled substance. Charges are being sought include; felony evasion, assault with a deadly weapon, DUI, hit and run, reckless driving and driving on the wrong side of the road.