

Idaho man who stole police vehicle dies from crash injuries

by Cheryl McDermott

A 20-year old Nampa, Idaho man died Saturday at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon where he was being treated for injuries sustained March 25 after crashing a stolen police vehicle, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported.

20-year old Anthony M. Nickerson of Nampa, Idaho died of injuries received when he crashed a stolen police vehicle after police used spike strips and a PIT maneuver to stop him from traveling into Lakeview, Oregon city limits on Mar. 25. OSP photo Anthony M. Nickerson was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by Klamath County Sheriff Deputy Tracy Weiland in late March on Highway 140E near milepost 61 for a speed violation. During the stop, the deputy determined the Dodge Durango was reported stolen from Nampa, and other law enforcement officers including OSP troopers and deputies from Klamath and Lake County Sheriff's Offices responded to the scene.

The three occupants of the stolen vehicle -- driver Randy Laules Schmiede, 20, passenger Jennifer D. Alexander, 22, and Nickerson, all of Nampa, were taken into custody and placed into separate police vehicles, troopers said.

Nickerson was seated in the back of Lake County Reserve Deputy Jim Robinson's 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe, handcuffed behind his back, but someone managed to slip his hands in front of his body, climb through a sliding window, and drive away in the SUV past the officers.

Police on scene took chase, traveling eastbound on Highway 140 at speeds near 90-mph. About five miles west of Lakeview near milepost 91, OSP Sergeant Steve Yates successfully deployed spike strips, and one tire of the stolen police vehicle deflated as the suspect continued to drive recklessly toward the city of Lakeview. Troopers reported Nickerson drove into the westbound lane directly into the path of oncoming vehicles, nearly

colliding with at least ten other vehicles head-on.

About one-half mile from the city limits, the OSP Sergeant Yates intentionally collided with the stolen police vehicle's rear quarter panel, using a PIT maneuver in an effort to stop it from reaching Lakeview. Nickerson lost control of the SUV, traveled off the eastbound shoulder and rolled the vehicle. OSP reported Nickerson was ejected during the crash, and sustained injuries to which he eventually succumbed.

OSP investigators are continuing the investigation, and their findings will be provided to the Lake County District Attorney's Office for review and grand jury consideration.

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