

Bend teen's senior skip day includes speeding, reckless driving

by Cheryl McDermott

18-year-old was allegedly driving 82 in a 35-mph zone before attempting to avoid a traffic stop, abandoning his vehicle and hiding

An 18-year-old high school senior from Bend made some poor choices on Friday during "Senior Skip Day" when a state trooper clocked him speeding almost 50-mph over the posted speed limit through the Cooley Road intersection on Highway 97 in north Bend. The driver allegedly fled from an attempted traffic stop, abandoned the vehicle and hid in a large pipe before he was discovered.

Christian Reyes Bello, 18, allegedly abandoned the white BMW seen speeding almost 50-mph over the speed limit, then hid in a large pipe before his apprehension and citation - OSP photo According to an Oregon State Police (OSP) news release, shortly after 9 a.m. May 25, Senior Trooper Joey Pollard, participating in a multi-agency traffic saturation patrol in the area, saw Christian Reyes Bello, 18, blow by the busy Cooley Road intersection on Highway 97 in a white BMW.

As Trooper Pollard turned to overtake and stop the car, he temporarily lost sight of the vehicle before spotting a cloud of dust about a mile down the road near the entrance to Tired Iron Towing.

The BMW was stopped partially off a gravel road, troopers reported, and Pollard saw a male and female run from the abandoned vehicle. Additional troopers, deputies, and city police officers arrived on scene and helped search the area.

The two people observed running were detained, and police learned that the driver and another passenger had also fled.

A citizen in the area informed police that the two people still at large were hiding in a 40-foot pipe, one of about 50 in the area, and they were also detained.

Bello, the driver, was cited for reckless driving and violation of the "basic rule"; speeding 82-mph in a 35-mph zone.

The three passengers were not cited or charged. Troopers were unable to locate two other vehicles traveling with the BMW "one who's occupant allegedly called Bello on a cell phone to warn him that the trooper was attempting to overtake and stop him.

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