



**Chico Police Department**, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 [www.chico.ca.us/](http://www.chico.ca.us/)  
530.897.4900

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 04/29/19

**Chico, CA** – A Chico Police Officer was on patrol in the area of East Ave. and North Ave. when he observed a suspicious red Honda sedan. As the officer turned his vehicle around to investigate, the driver of the red Honda accelerated away from the officer and began driving recklessly. Before the officer could catch up to the Honda, the driver turned into the parking lot of 801 East Ave. The vehicle struck a tree and the driver fled on foot towards the movie theater. Officers conducted a search of the area and with the information provided by several citizens, James Thao was located at El Paso Way and White Ave. Thao was identified as the driver of the red Honda. Thao was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant and several fresh charges. Thao would have likely made good on his escape if it weren't for the help of all the citizens who called into dispatch as he fled the scene.



**Location:** East Ave. / Cohasset Rd.

**Date/Time:** 4/29/19 1548 hours

**Suspect:** James Thao of Chico (Age 37)

**Supervisor:** Sgt. Prosis S7

**Watch Commander:** Commander Rodden C6

