

Missing snowmobilers located, arrested in Elk Lake break-in

by Cheryl McDermott

In a surprising turn of events, a Bend man who asked for help in finding his friend who was missing after falling off a snowmobile the two had been riding Monday night was ultimately arrested and charged with DUII and trespassing after allegedly breaking into a resort lodge and cabin. His friend was also arrested, deputies reported. James C. Adams - DCJ photo Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched about 7:40 p.m., December 10, to a report made by resort personnel. James C. Adams, 24, of Bend, said that he couldn't find his friend, 27-year old Monmouth resident Benjamin R. Stange, who had apparently fallen off the back of the snowmobile in the Elk Lake Resort area. According to a news release prepared by Sheriff's Sgt. Ronny Dozier and Deputy Jim Whitcomb, county Search and Rescue (SAR) team members were called to assist in the search, and to shuttle deputies to the resort area by snowmobile. The resort, located southwest of Bend, is snowbound in winter months and accessible only by cross-country skis, snowmobiles, or snow-cat shuttle. When deputies and SAR arrived, Adams was also nowhere to be found, but was located about four hours later by his snowmobile which was resting against a tree, deputies said. Stange was found inside a resort cabin after allegedly breaking in, and Adams allegedly broke into the lodge and another cabin, the news release stated. Both men were arrested, Dozier and Whitcomb said. Adams was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, recklessly endangering another, and two counts of second-degree criminal trespass. He was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail. Stange was cited for two counts of second-degree criminal trespass and released.

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