

Sisters man arrested for DUII, police spike tires to stop pursuit

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A 49-year old Sisters man was arrested early Sunday morning for allegedly driving drunk and other crimes after he led police on a 13 mile vehicle pursuit at speeds up to 80-mph on icy highways, slid into a snowbank, continued driving even after all four tires were spiked, then finally came to a stop. Even then, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported, he fought the arresting officer before he was taken into custody.

Police spiked all 4 tires on this van, operated by an allegedly drunk Sisters man who led police on a 13 mile pursuit over icy roads at speeds near 80 mph - OSP photo According to a news release, a trooper was preparing to have an abandoned motorhome towed on Highway 20 near milepost 83 about 1:40 a.m., January 27, when Bruce Iverson Berryhill, 49, drove past before circling around and pulling up next to the police car.

As Berryhill was telling the trooper he was going to notify police about the motorhome, the officer detected a "strong odor of alcohol" and other indications that suggested the man was visibly intoxicated. When the trooper tried to question him further, Berryhill sped east in his 1995 Toyota Previa van.

With the trooper in pursuit with lights and siren activated, Berryhill drove on until milepost 85, when he lost control, slid into a snowbank, but was able to pull out and continue on at speeds reaching 80-mph, OSP said.

A Black Butte Ranch patrol officer set up spike strips at the entrance to Black Butte Ranch near milepost 93 and as the van passed, all four tires were successfully spiked. The driver continued eluding police for another mile and a half before he stopped, troopers reported.

Berryhill got out of the van, refused to comply with the officer's directions, and was taken into custody after what OSP described as a brief struggle.

He was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail and is charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, felony attempt to elude in a vehicle, reckless driving, and three counts of recklessly endangering another person.

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