

Prineville man arrested for auto theft after crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A 21-year old Prineville man who was the driver of a vehicle involved in a roll-over crash on Highway 26 West early Friday morning was later arrested for auto theft, even after trying to blame a person he claimed had fled and was responsible “ a person who didn’t exist, deputies reported.

Nicholas Ryan Rodin - CCJ photo Nicholas Ryan Rodin, 21, was one of three occupants in the vehicle that crashed about 5:30 a.m., February 1, near milepost 16, Crook County Sheriff’s Canine Deputy Brad Wright and Sgt. James C. Savage wrote in a news release. The vehicle rolled onto its driver’s side, and all occupants left the scene to a nearby home.

Later, the three occupants were brought back to the crash site by the homeowner and told deputies that a fourth person had been driving, and that he had fled the scene because “he was scared”.

Canine Deputy Wright and his dog searched the area and determined that no fourth person was involved.

Further investigation led to Rodin's arrest after it was found that the vehicle was listed as stolen from Prineville and that he had been driving, the deputies said.

Rodin was lodged in the Crook County Jail after receiving medical treatment, and was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to perform the duties of a driver and criminal mischief.

The other two occupants of the vehicle were not charged with any crimes, deputies reported.

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