Portland pair captured following high-speed chase through Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

Oregon State Police troopers, Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies and Bend Police officers teamed up to capture two Portland residents Saturday night after a 30-mile chase at speeds nearing 100 miles per hour. The two suspects were apprehended after fleeing their disabled vehicle about five miles east of Bend, authorities reported.

Saturday afternoon, Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper James Hayes stopped a pickup near La Pine for a traffic violation, but the male driver fled on foot and wasnâ€™t found during a search of the area. The trooper noticed a woman driving a Honda CRX whom he suspected to be connected to, or traveling with, the pickup and its driver.

Ray William Edwards (left) & Cassandra Fay Carlson (right) - DCJ Photos

About six hours later, Trooper Hayes spotted the same Honda northbound near milepost 160 of Highway 97 south of Bend. The man who had fled from the traffic stop earlier was now driving, and the woman seen earlier was a passenger in the vehicle.

When Hayes attempted to stop the car, it accelerated to near 100 miles per hour, continuing north on Highway 97.

Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies and Bend Police officers spiked two of the Hondaâ€™s tires south of Bend, but that didnâ€™t stop the car which continued into the city, police said in the news release. The flattened tires eventually tore off, leaving the car to careen about on the rims.

The suspects continued eluding the officers through Bend and then east on Highway 20, eventually losing control of the vehicle, leaving the highway, and ending up in a ditch about five miles east of Bend. Both suspects abandoned the Honda and fled on foot.

Ray William Edwards, 36, and Cassandra Fay Carlson, 24, were located 45 minutes later about one quarter mile from the abandoned vehicle. They were taken into custody shortly before 9 p.m. and lodged in Deschutes County Jail on numerous charges.

Edwards, from southeast Portland, will face charges including felony attempt to elude in a vehicle, misdemeanor attempt to elude on foot, failing to register as a sex offender, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person, hindering prosecution, and possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

Carlson, also from Portland, is charged with parole violation and possession of methamphetamine.

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