â€˜Armed, dangerousâ€™ burglary suspect eludes police

by Cheryl McDermott

The Crook County Sheriffâ€™s Office is asking for the publicâ€™s help in locating an armed and dangerous burglary suspect who ran from officers in a stolen vehicle Friday night, leading them on a high speed chase from Powell Butte through BLM land, then abandoning the vehicle and fleeing on foot.

William (Willy) Andrew Wilson, CCJ photo

William (Willy) Andrew Wilson, 23, of Prineville, Oregon, remains at large. He is described as a white male, 5-foot 8-inches tall, weighing 140 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. According to Sgt. Russ Wright, Wilson is suspected of being involved in a residential burglary reported January 22. He has warrants for his arrest in both Crook County and Washington State, and several current charges are pending. He is to be considered armed and dangerous, said the sergeant.

About 11:30 p.m. on Friday, deputies spotted a â€œvehicle of interestâ€• that had been associated with the burglary. The vehicle, a white 2004 Ford pickup with Idaho license plates reported stolen from Pasco, Wash., was seen on SW Houston Lake Road in Powell Butte. Deputies took chase, but the suspect got away -- only to be found a short time later by another deputy at milepost 5 on Highway 126, near the West Powell Butte Estates neighborhood.

Deputies pursued the suspect vehicle again as it traveled westbound on Highway 126 at speeds exceeding 80 miles per hour. Failing to stop, the vehicle traveled into Deschutes County and turned off Highway 126 near milepost 3, then continued northwest on a BLM land access road. The deputy made the decision to discontinue the pursuit when the road conditions became â€œtoo primitiveâ€•, said Sgt. Wright, and instead called in backup from the Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office, an agency better equipped with a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies and Redmond Police officers assisted in the search for the suspect vehicle. Shortly after midnight on Saturday, a Redmond Police K-9 unit found the vehicle on Antler Road in east Redmond, just a short distance from the BLM access road. Wilson had fled on foot, said Sgt. Wright, abandoning the pickup which contained a rifle and allegedly stolen property.

Four police agencies -- Deschutes and Crook County Sheriffâ€™s Offices, along with Prineville and Redmond Police, including Redmondâ€™s K-9 dog -- set up a perimeter containment in an attempt to find Wilson, but all efforts were unsuccessful.

Anyone with information about Wilsonâ€™s location is asked to contact the Crook County Sheriffâ€™s Office at 541-447-6398.

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