Drunk driver arrested following false report of pickup theft, crash

by Cheryl McDermott

Police officers and a deputy found a pickup upside down at the bottom of Dry Canyon in southwest Redmond Monday night, and the man who later reported it stolen was ultimately arrested for drunk driving, filing a false report, and other charges.

Redmond Police officers and a Deschutes County Sheriff's deputy responded to SW Obsidian Avenue and SW Rimrock Way about 10:15 p.m., April 11 to a report of a motor vehicle crash, Redmond Police Captain Al Maich said.

Officers located a green 2000 Dodge pickup upside down at the bottom of Dry Canyon, but even with the help of the fire department's thermal camera were unable to locate a driver or any passengers, said Maich.

While officers searched, the pickup's owner, 24-year old Geraldo Morales of 16301 NW O'Neil Highway in Redmond, called 911 Dispatch to report the vehicle stolen. When Morales met police at the scene, officers found evidence that Morales was the driver and sole occupant of the pickup when the crash occurred, the captain said.

Investigation determined that Morales was traveling east on SW Obsidian Avenue when he failed to stop at the end of the road, drove through a barricade, and over the edge of Dry Canyon, sustaining minor injuries in the crash.

Morales was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, initiating a false report, second-degree criminal mischief, and failing to perform the duties of a driver involved in an accident. He was cited at the police department, Maich said, and released to a friend.