## Suspected auto thief arrested following pursuit

*by Cheryl McDermott*

An 18-year old Bend man led police on a high speed pursuit through southeast Bend Saturday evening, continuing the chase even after driving over spike strips.  He was eventually arrested after fleeing on foot and attempting to hide in the yard of a nearby home, authorities reported.

Chad Lee Edwards - DCJ photo Shortly before 7 p.m. James Anderson of 689 SE Glenwood Drive reported his 1997 Ford F-350 pickup had been stolen within the previous 10-15 minutes.  As a Bend Police officer was enroute to the location, another officer saw the pickup traveling east on SE Bear Creek Road near NE Purcell Boulevard, Sgt. Todd Fletcher said.

The pickup turned right onto SE 27th Street and sped off at a high rate of speed, and failed to stop when the officer activated the patrol car's lights and siren.

A Deschutes County Sheriff's deputy deployed spike strips near the intersection of SE 27th and Ferguson Road, but the driver avoided them and continued speeding onto Knott Road toward SE 15th Street, where a second attempt at spiking the tires was successful, Fletcher said.

The driver of the stolen pickup, later identified as 18-year old Chad Lee Edwards, didn't stop and continued down Knott Road, turning right into the Mountain High subdivision.  The sergeant said the suspect abandoned the pickup and ran a short distance before he was found hiding in the yard of a home on Steamboat Lane.

Edwards was taken into custody and lodged in the Deschutes County Jail.  He is charged with almost a dozen crimes including unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, attempting to elude (both felony and misdemeanor charges), reckless driving, reckless endangering, driving while suspended (felony), unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, first- and second-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree criminal trespass.

The pickup was recovered and returned to its owner with only minor tire and wheel damage.

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