

Man with mask, gun, body armor arrested after pursuit, crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A Kalispell, Montana man has been charged with over a half-dozen offenses but remains hospitalized following a car crash during an attempt to elude Prineville Police Tuesday night. Officers seized a handgun, binoculars, military-style body armor and a Halloween mask found during a search of his vehicle.

36-year old Steven Eugene Morris was stopped near NW 3rd Street and North Deer Street in Prineville for a traffic violation, said Chief Eric Bush, and was found to have an invalid drivers license and no insurance. Morris sped off in his vehicle and less than three blocks away, crashed into another car before fleeing on foot.

He was apprehended and taken into custody about a block from the accident scene at NE 3rd Street and N. Main Street, Bush said.

Both Morris and the 54-year old man driving the vehicle he collided with were injured in the crash and taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for treatment.

A search of Morris's vehicle led to the seizure of a handgun, binoculars, military-style body armor, and a Halloween mask, the chief reported. He has been charged with third-degree assault, misdemeanor and felony attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, failing to perform the duties of a driver, second-degree criminal mischief, and carrying a concealed weapon.

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