Teen attacks counselor, steals van, runs over companion

by Cheryl McDermott

A teenage boy from Rimrock Trails Adolescent Treatment Services who had been on a hike in the Mill Creek area with other boys and a counselor allegedly attacked the counselor, stole a van, and ran over one of his companions twice, authorities reported.

Crook County Sheriffâ€™s deputies received a report of a motor vehicle crash near milepost 28 on Highway 26 East on Saturday, and as they were enroute an updated report advised that the incident involved a vehicle vs. pedestrian crash, Detective Sergeant Travis Jurgens said.

Deputies received a third report indicating the vehicle was stolen and headed west on Highway 26 toward Prineville.

Investigation determined that a group of juveniles from Rimrock Trails Adolescent Treatment Services, a non-profit agency that provides alcohol and drug addiction treatment for adolescents ages 12 to 18, had been hiking with a counselor. On the return trip, one of the teenage boys allegedly assaulted and attempted to strangle the counselor and took control of the van. The suspect left the counselor on the side of the road, Jurgens said.

Three other teenage boys got out of the van, and the suspect backed over one of them, then drove over him again as he pulled forward and sped off on Highway 26.

The injured teen was flown by AirLife helicopter to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, where he was reportedly in stable condition this morning.

The suspect juvenile was taken into custody and charged with first- and fourth-degree assault, strangulation, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, second-degree robbery, failure to perform the duties of a driver, and eight counts of reckless endangerment.

Oregon State Police provided assistance to the Crook County Sheriffâ€™s Office, the sergeant said, and the investigation is continuing.

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