

Prineville man injured in Paulina Highway crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A 25-year old Prineville man was flown by air ambulance to the hospital late Wednesday morning following a single-vehicle rollover on South Paulina Highway that deputies suspect was caused by speeding and drunk driving.

Crook County Sheriff's deputies responded to the crash near Paulina City Road in Paulina about 11:45 a.m., July 4, Detective Sergeant Travis Jurgens reported. Upon arrival, they found the driver, Sheldon Rhoden, on the ground being tended to by good Samaritans and AirLife paramedics who happened to be in the area attending the Paulina Parade.

Preliminary investigation determined that Rhoden was traveling east on the highway when his 2001 GMC Sierra pickup crossed the oncoming lane and left the road, Jurgens said. Deputies believe Rhoden overcorrected and came back onto the road several times, continuing to swerve from side to side before the vehicle ultimately rolled.

Rhoden was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the pickup, Jurgens wrote in a news release. He was flown by AirLife helicopter ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend with unknown injuries.

"It appears that both speed and alcohol were a factor in the crash," the sergeant said, adding that the investigation is continuing.