

Bend man busted for DUII, eluding police in RV

by Cheryl McDermott

A 45-year old Bend man -- with a blood alcohol content allegedly more than three times the legal limit -- sped off during a traffic stop by a Marion County Sheriff's deputy in a 21-foot motorhome and led police on an 11-mile pursuit before stopping when half the RV's tires were punctured with spike strips. Deputies were forced to tazer the driver in order to take him into custody.

Irvin Wetzell - MCj photo Irvin Wetzell, 45, of Bend, was stopped about 4:30 p.m., August 7 on Highway 22 east of Stayon when a deputy noticed the 1978 Flair motorhome had expired registration tags. The deputy suspected Wetzell was intoxicated, but during the conversation Wetzell drove away westbound on Highway 22.

The pursuit lasted nearly 11 miles at speeds between 55- and 60-mph, the news release stated, until spike strips were deployed and flattened all the tires on the right side of the vehicle.

The RV drove off the road onto the shoulder, and Wetzell tried to pull back on the highway but the motorhome became stuck in the ditch.

Deputies used a tazer to gain control of Wetzell, who alleged refused to comply with instructions.

The suspect was lodged in the Marion County Jail, and according to deputies his blood alcohol content was .25, more than three times the legal limit.

Wetzell is charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, resisting arrest, and failure to carry and present a drivers license. He was also cited for driving without a drivers license and driving uninsured, the release said.

Bend man busted for DUII, eluding police in RV by Cheryl McDermott