

Two arrested in 'intentional' hit-and-run

by Cheryl McDermott

Two Bend men have been arrested in connection with a hit-and-run crash Saturday evening, and police now say they suspect the victim was intentionally struck by the vehicle as he rode his bicycle in northeast Bend.

Rian Eugene Bernhardt (left), and Joshua Grant Coffey (right) - DCJ photos An investigation by Bend Police assisted by Deschutes County Sheriff's™s detectives followed the 7:35 p.m. hit-and-run collision at NE 4th Street and NE Addison where 27-year old Mariano E. Gaucin of Bend was struck and injured as he rode his bicycle.

The investigation resulted in the arrests of the suspected driver, Rian Eugene Bernhardt, 32, and his alleged co-conspirator Joshua Grant Coffey, 28, Bend Police Sgt. Paul Kansky reported.

Coffey was arrested Sunday night about 9:20 p.m. during what Kansky described as a "high-risk vehicle stop" at the South Albertsons™ parking lot.

Bernhardt was taken into custody after another "high-risk vehicle stop" early Monday morning, about 1:20 a.m., in the parking lot of the south Shari™s Restaurant.

Both men were lodged in the Deschutes County Jail.

Bernhardt is charged with first-degree assault, conspiracy to commit first-degree assault and failure to perform the duties of a driver to injured persons.

Coffey is charged with hindering prosecution, conspiracy to commit first-degree assault and a felony warrant for parole violation, Kansky said.

“Four search warrants pertaining to this investigation have been executed thus far,” said the sergeant, declining to say what evidence, if any, was found. Two vehicles including the suspect vehicle were searched in addition to Bernhardt’s residence at 1701 NE Cackler, and the former residence of Coffey at Apartment C of 330 SE Wildcat.

The investigation is ongoing, and Sgt. Kansky asks anyone with information about the case to contact police at 541.693.6911.

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