

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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May 11, 2016



DUI Driver's Passenger Impaled by fence post during Crash

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION – This morning at approximately 1:30 AM, 34-year-old Ryan Matson from Cornville was arrested for Failure to remain at an Accident Scene, DUI, Endangerment, and Criminal Damage following a single vehicle crash. He was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center and remains in-custody.

BACKGROUND – Deputies were dispatched to the 1000 block of North Page Springs Road, Cornville, regarding a traffic crash involving a 2007 BMW Z3 convertible sedan. The BMW's driver eventually stopped in the parking lot of the nearby Verde Valley Fire Department and then fled. His passenger, a male (age and hometown not yet reported), remained in the vehicle and was suffering from a 1 inch pipe impaled through his chest. Fire personnel treated the injured man before he was flown to Flagstaff Medical Center. His condition was initially listed as non-life threatening, but there have been no further updates at this time.



Crash site

Deputies were able to identify the driver as Ryan Matson. Deputies located Matson at a home in the 11000 block of Oak Run Lane in Cornville. When initially contacted, deputies could smell the strong odor of an intoxicating beverage on Matson. Additionally, Matson's speech was slurred and his eyes were bloodshot and watery – all indicators he had been driving under the influence.

Matson told deputies he left a nearby restaurant with a male passenger, whom he could not identify, heading to a location in Cornville. He took a corner too fast on Page Springs Road, went off the pavement and crashed. Once he realized his passenger had been impaled by a fence rail, he drove to the fire station so the man could be treated. Matson suffered only a small scratch as a result of the crash. Matson failed DUI tests including an evaluation from a deputy with Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) certification and was arrested. Blood test results are pending.

It appears the passenger was impaled by the top rail of a chain link fence at the crash site. It was estimated that at least 100' of fencing had been damaged.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:

www.ycsoaz.gov