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Stolen car crashes into van during **police chase**

ELEANOR CAMERON - Staff Writer

A Chico family is in the hospital after a stolen car being chased by the police ran a stop sign and hit a minivan.

Chico police Sgt. Dan Fonseca said the blue Toyota Rav 4 was reported stolen late Tuesday afternoon.

A Chico police officer spotted the vehicle and gave chase. It ended when the Rav 4 t-boned a Ford Windstar at East Fifth and Palm avenues.

According to Fonseca, the Rav 4 was southbound on Palm. It blew through the stop sign at the intersection of East Fifth and struck the Windstar as it was heading east.

The minivan spun in a counter-clockwise direction before hitting a three-foot-high cyclone fence and toppling. It came to rest, on the driver's side, in the front yard of a home at 1480 Palm Avenue.

The Rav 4 spun into an oak tree on the southeast corner of the intersection.

The three occupants of the Windstar - two adults and a juvenile - were transported to Enloe Medical Center. The female driver of the Windstar received "traumatic injuries," according to Fonseca.

Three teen-agers were in the Rav 4.

"Most of the injuries were cuts and abrasions," said Fonseca.

Fonseca said, "At minimum, they will be charged with possession of a stolen vehicle and felony evading a police officer."

The investigation is being handled by the major accident investigation unit.

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