

Icy roads lead to numerous car crashes

by Cheryl McDermott

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies reported that icy road conditions contributed to five separate motor vehicle crashes on Wednesday and Thursday, one involving a jack-knifed semi truck and another three vehicles. No one was injured, and everyone involved was wearing appropriate safety restraints.

According to Sgt. Dan Swearingen, the accident spree began about 11:30 p.m., November 21. Deputies, Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel began responding to the crashes.

The three-vehicle crash occurred at 12:40 a.m. Thursday, Swearingen said. A 1989 Toyota pickup driven north on Highway 97 by Stoli Jager, 37, of Beverly Hills, California, lost control on black ice and crossed the highway directly into the path of oncoming traffic, Swearingen said. In addition to Jager's vehicle, two others were involved in the crash: a 2004 Volvo SUV driven by 66-year old Bend resident Gary C. Hill, and a 2000 Ford Focus operated by Chad P. Coursey, 33, of Redmond.

Jager's and Hill's vehicles received major damage, the sergeant said, and Coursey's car received only minor damage.

Jager was cited for violating the Basic Rule, i.e. traveling too fast for the icy road conditions.

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