

Two killed, two injured in Highway 26 crash

by Cheryl McDermott

An 85-year old Bend driver died Tuesday afternoon when, in an attempt to pass a backhoe on Highway 26 near Madras, his car sideswiped an oncoming pickup and then struck another car head-on. The car's driver, a Warm Springs-area woman, was also killed, police said, and her two passengers were seriously injured.

According to an Oregon State Police (OSP) news release, the three-vehicle crash was reported about 4:45 p.m., December 4, and troopers responded to the scene about four miles west of Madras on Highway 26 near milepost 113.

Investigation determined that Warren Clifford Price, 85, of Bend, was traveling west on Highway 26 when he attempted to pass a backhoe, and his 2001 Buick Park Avenue apparently sideswiped an eastbound 1998 Ford F-150 pickup.

Price's car, now traveling west in the eastbound lane, crashed head-on into a 1998 Hyundai driven by Leah L. Boise, 52, of Warm Springs, troopers said.

Price and Boise were pronounced deceased at the scene. Two passengers in the Hyundai were seriously injured, the news release stated. David Valdez, 54, of Madras was transported by ground ambulance to Mountain View Hospital in Madras, and an unidentified 7-year-old boy from Warm Springs was flown by AirLife helicopter to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

59-year old Franklin Arthur Hileman of Crooked River Ranch, the driver of the pickup, was not injured.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel established a detour while Highway 26 was closed to traffic.

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