

Elderly driver killed in Eugene wrong-way collision

by Cheryl McDermott

One person died and two others were injured early Sunday morning when an elderly wrong-way driver crashed head-on into an oncoming vehicle on Beltline Road just west of River Road in Eugene, Oregon, police reported. Jack Lawrence, 80, was killed Sunday when he crashed head-on into an oncoming vehicle as he drove the wrong-way on Beltline Road - OSP photo Oregon State Police (OSP) said that 80-year old Jack Lawrence of Eugene was traveling east in the westbound lane of Beltline Road about 6 a.m., December 9, when he crashed his car head-on into an oncoming car.

Lawrence's Buick Century slid into the guardrail after colliding with Brandon Bolton's Mitsubishi Eclipse, the news release stated.

Bolton, a 21-year old Springfield resident, and Lawrence's passenger, Linda Spencer, 58, from Eugene, were transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) with non-life threatening injuries, troopers reported.

Lawrence was also taken to SHMC where he later died from injuries sustained in the crash.

Troopers from the Springfield Area Command office are continuing the investigation, and say it is yet unclear why Lawrence was traveling in the wrong direction. They were assisted on scene by the Eugene Police and Fire Departments.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel closed westbound traffic on Beltline Road for about 3 ½ hours, OSP said.

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