Bend Man Dies in Three-Vehicle Crash on N. Highway 97

by Cheryl McDermott

A 55-year old Bend man died at the emergency room of St. Charles Medical Center Wednesday evening after his pickup failed to stop for a traffic light at the intersection of Highway 97 and Robal Road in north Bend, authorities said.

Officers and fire department personnel were enroute to the scene near Home Depot about 6:10 p.m. November 1 when they learned the injured driver, Edward Dennis Shelton, went unconscious.

According to Officer Shad Sollars in a news release issued by Bend Police, officers and Bend Fire emergency medical technicians provided medical care on-site before Shelton was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he later died.

The accident occurred about 6:10 p.m. November 1st on N. Highway 97 near Robal Road. Shelton was driving south on Highway 97 and failed to stop behind other vehicles waiting for the traffic light on Robal Road. His 2003 Chevy pickup hit the rear-end of a Ford pickup driven by 33-year old Brooke Running, and her truck was pushed forward and crashed into a Nissan Altima driven by Richard Doerfler, 26.

Neither Running nor Doerfler were injured in the accident, said Sollars.

The crash is still under investigation, and it has yet to be determined if Shelton suffered a medical condition prior to the crash or if he died from injuries sustained during the crash. â€œAlcohol or speed did not appear to be a factor,â€• said Sollars. Shelton was not wearing a seat belt, and his vehicleâ€™s air bags did not deploy.

This was the third traffic-related death on Highway 97 in Bend within a three-hour period. Just hours earlier, the drivers of two semi tractor-trailers were killed in a fiery head-on crash in south Bend near Romaine

Village Way.

Both northbound lanes of the highway were closed for about an hour during the investigation and cleanup.

Bend Man Dies in Three-Vehicle Crash on N. Highway 97 by Cheryl McDermott