

Two Killed, One Critically Injured in Single-Vehicle Rollover

by Cheryl McDermott

Two young women were killed and one man critically injured early Sunday morning when their sports utility vehicle left the highway, rolled, and ejected all occupants in a single-vehicle accident on Highway 20 east of Bend.

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies and Bend Fire personnel responded to east Highway 20 and Harmony Lane about 3:30 a.m. November 19 following a report of a single vehicle accident involving a 1999 Jeep Cherokee with four occupants.

According to a news release issued by Sgt. Dan Swearingen and Deputy Kevin Turpen of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, preliminary investigation revealed that the Jeep left the road while traveling west on Highway 20 for unknown reasons, although investigators stated that alcohol appears to be a contributing factor.

Brianne N. Blocker, 20, no hometown given, and Rachel Grant, 17, of Bend, both died from injuries sustained in the accident.

Another occupant of the Jeep, 22-year old Aaron E. Choat of Logsdon, Oregon was transported to St. Charles Medical Center by Bend Fire paramedics, and was reported to be in critical condition Sunday afternoon.

Brett A. Sells, a 20-year old Bend resident, was later taken to the hospital by deputies, where he was treated and released.

Investigators reported Sunday that none of the occupants were wearing safety restraints. The crash remains under investigation, said deputies.

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