

Two killed, two injured in Highway 26 head-on crash

by Cheryl McDermott

The driver and passenger in a car that crossed the centerline and crashed head-on into a pickup on Highway 26 about nine miles east of Sandy, Oregon died Sunday morning, and the two occupants of the pickup were seriously injured, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported.

The driver and passenger in this car were killed, and two occupants of the pickup were seriously injured in a Highway 26 head-on crash near Sandy, Oregon on Sunday - OSP photo According to an OSP news release, Heidi Christine Johnson, 22, of Portland, was traveling west on the highway near milepost 34 shortly before 11 a.m., when, for an unknown reason, her 1997 Honda Accord crossed the centerline and struck an oncoming 1993 Toyota pickup.

Johnson was transported to a landing zone established for LifeFlight helicopter transport at Firwood Middle School near Sandy, but she died before departure, troopers said.

Her passenger, 22-year old Jesse Maika Kailea of Vancouver, Washington, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Ross Taylor Mack, 30, the driver of the pickup, and his passenger were both seriously injured. Mack and 30-year old Raymond Bruce Cooper, both of Portland, were transported by ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Hospital, OSP said.

Troopers have confirmed that Johnson and Mack were wearing safety restraints. Kailea was not, OSP reported, and the investigation has yet to determine if Cooper was wearing a seat belt.

Troopers with the Portland Area Command and Government Camp offices are continuing the investigation, and were assisted on scene by the Hoodland Fire Department and Clackamas County interagency crash investigation team.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel closed the highway for about two hours, and then reopened one lane of traffic. All lanes were opened by 2:30 p.m.

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