

Pregnant Woman Killed in Hwy. 97 Head-on Crash with Semi

by Richard Burton

A 19-year old Washington woman, 5-months pregnant, was killed in a traffic accident on Highway 97 south of Bend Tuesday morning when her small car veered into the oncoming path of a semi-truck and trailer hauling a load of apples.

Jessica Lynn Shadle of Omak, Washington died at the scene of the 10:25 a.m. accident near Wickiup Junction at milepost 166 on Highway 97 north of La Pine.

According to Lt. Shane Nelson with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, the highway was mostly dry and bare with some wet areas when the accident occurred. Shadle was traveling north on Highway 97 when, for unknown reasons, her 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser crossed the center line and slammed head-on into a 2005 Kenworth truck hauling a 50-foot van trailer.

After impact, Shadle's car spun off the road and came to rest facing south on the northbound shoulder, while the Kenworth continued south before leaving the highway and hitting some small trees.

Both vehicles sustained major damage, said Lt. Nelson.

The semi's driver, identified as 40-year old Joe Allen Kallis of Auburn, Washington, was uninjured.

The highway was closed to traffic for about 2 ½ hours during investigation and cleanup, said the lieutenant. Oregon Department of Transportation personnel detoured traffic along Huntington and Burgess Roads, and emergency responders from the La Pine Fire Department rendered aid at the scene.

Oregon State Police are assisting the sheriff's office in the ongoing crash investigation. Both drivers were wearing safety restraints, and the airbags deployed in Shadle's vehicle, said Lt. Nelson.

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