

Police investigate death of passenger fleeing traffic stop

by Cheryl McDermott

BEND, Ore. — Bend Police, Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies and the District Attorney's Office are conducting an investigation into the death of a person who fled on foot during a traffic stop in north Bend Friday evening. While the exact cause of death is unknown, the person, whose identity is behind withheld pending notification of family members, may have tripped and fallen, authorities reported. Deschutes County Sheriff's Captain Marc Mills said a deputy stopped a vehicle at the corner of Jamison Road and Empire Avenue just west of the Bend Parkway shortly after 7 p.m., May 23. During the stop, a passenger ran away. The deputy notified the dispatch operator of the fleeing person, but did not pursue him or her as the traffic stop continued. A second deputy who arrived in the area was flagged down by two citizens that reported seeing a person running, and who then told the deputy which direction the subject had fled. The deputy, accompanied by the unidentified citizens, found the person unconscious and unresponsive, the captain said. The deputy and the citizens rendered aid until medics arrived, but the person was deceased, a news release stated. "At this time it appears the deceased subject that ran may have tripped and fell which may have contributed to the death," Captain Mills said. The exact cause of death may not be known for several days, and the investigation is continuing.

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