

Madras man dies after ATV crash

by Cheryl McDermott

PRINEVILLE, Ore. — Police believe that excessive speed and alcohol contributed to an all terrain vehicle (ATV) accident about 30 miles north of Prineville on Friday evening that led to the death of the 22-year-old Madras driver after he crashed into a large boulder.

According to a news release prepared by Crook County Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Chapman and Deputy Brian Bottoms, Travis Tolman suffered severe head trauma and other injuries and died Friday night after being airlifted to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon.

Tolman was riding his 2006 Polaris Predator ATV with friends near the Jefferson County line when the accident occurred about 8:25 p.m. on August 22. His friends transported the injured man to an area about ten miles north of Prineville on McKay Creek Road where they were met by emergency personnel, the news release stated.

Crook County Fire and Rescue attempted to stabilize Tolman prior to his helicopter flight, but he died after arriving at the hospital, the sergeant said.

While the cause of the crash remains under investigation, friends riding with Tolman told deputies he was traveling at a high rate of speed before he missed a curve and hit a large boulder off the shoulder of U.S.F.S. Road 2725 in the Trout Creek Area of the Ochoco mountains.

“Speed and alcohol are believed to be a factor in the crash,” Chapman and Bottoms reported in the news release.

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