

Pedestrian struck crossing street in downtown Bend; 4th incident this week

by Richard Burton

A 43-year old transient was struck by a vehicle Thursday evening while crossing a downtown Bend intersection against the traffic light, the fourth such incident of pedestrian vs. vehicle crash in the city this week, police said.

And, as was the case in Monday's fatality, the injured man's alcohol impairment and dark clothing were contributing factors, said Sgt. Dan Ritchie.

Bend Police officers and paramedics with the Bend Fire Department responded to the intersection of Newport Avenue and Wall Street about 5:15 p.m. and found John Bennett, 43, had walked into the path of a 1981 BMW when he tried to cross Newport Avenue against a traffic control device.

Bennett was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend with non-life threatening injuries, where he reportedly was treated and released.

In this week's earlier incidents, 48-year old Ben James Bjork was struck and killed Monday while crossing South Third Street near Powers Road.

On Tuesday about 2:40 p.m., 18-year old Dustin Duffy suffered a broken leg when he was hit by a pickup making a right turn onto Third Street from NE Greenwood Avenue.

Later that day at 5:20 p.m., 12-year old Gunner Crawford was seriously injured when he darted out in front of traffic as he attempted to cross the Bend Parkway at SE Truman Avenue.

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