

Two die in collision with school bus

by Cheryl McDermott

Two men died Thursday morning after a driver lost control of his car on an icy, shaded curve of Highway 226 south of Lyons and crashed into a school bus, authorities reported.

The driver and two passengers in the North Santiam School District bus escaped injury. Photos provided by OSP.

The driver and passenger of the 1989 Nissan Sentra were pronounced deceased at the scene of Thursday's accident on Highway 226.

Gandy lost control of the Sentra as he was negotiating an icy, shaded curve of the highway. Justin J. Gandy, 25, of Lyons apparently lost control of his 1989 Nissan Sentra while negotiating a shaded, icy curve of Highway 226 south of McCully Mountain Road as he traveled northbound about 11:30 a.m. February 1, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported. The vehicle slid onto the shoulder, veered back into the highway, and was struck in the passenger side by the oncoming school bus.

Gandy, whose driving privileges were suspended, and his passenger, Darryl Ray Wilverding, a 37-year old Lyons-area resident, were both pronounced dead at the scene.

46-year old Charles S. Baldwin of Stayton was driving the school bus, a 2004 International from North Santiam School District, troopers reported. Baldwin and the two five-year-old girls he was transporting were uninjured.

OSP troopers from the Salem Area Command, aided by crash reconstructionists, are continuing the investigation. Oregon Department of Transportation personnel reopened the highway to traffic about 2:30 p.m. following accident cleanup and on-scene investigation.

All persons involved in the accident were wearing safety restraints, police said.

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