

Drunk driver cited in head-on crash; three seriously injured

by Cheryl McDermott

Three people were seriously injured in a head-on crash on Highway 18, about four miles east of Spirit Mountain, early Sunday morning, and one driver has been cited with numerous charges related to drunk driving, police reported.

Sean M. McCulloch, 38, of Willamina, was cited for numerous charges related to drunk driving. OSP photos.

Ung Lam and Anh Bui were seriously injured when their Mercedes was hit head-on by an allegedly drunk driver.

The head-on crash occurred at milepost 27 on Highway 18, about four miles east of Spirit Mountain. Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers responded to the accident scene about 12:45 a.m. February 4, said troopers.

Sean M. McCulloch, 38, of Willamina, was traveling west on Highway 18 near milepost 27 when his 1991 Toyota Corolla veered across the centerline, narrowly missing two eastbound vehicles. A third vehicle was struck head-on. That vehicle, a 1999 Mercedes C230, was driven by 72-year old Ung H. Lam of Tigard, OSP reported.

McCulloch was seriously injured and transported to Salem Hospital. A trooper was dispatched to the hospital to assist with the investigation.

Lam and his passenger, Anh Bui, 65, of Tigard, were also seriously injured and both were taken to Willamette Valley Medical Center.

Due to his injuries, McCulloch was cited to appear in court for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, two accounts of third-degree assault, and six counts of recklessly endangering another person.

All persons involved were wearing safety restraints, troopers said, and the airbags in the Mercedes deployed.

Troopers were assisted at the scene by deputies from Yamhill and Polk Counties, emergency medical technicians with West Valley Fire Department, and Oregon Department of Transportation personnel.

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