

Bend Woman One of Three Killed in Highway 97 Crash

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Three people were killed Saturday afternoon during a two-vehicle crash on Highway 97 about one mile south of the junction with Highway 58, on a two-lane straight section of roadway.

Anne M. McSweeney of Bend, a 44 year old woman who may have recently moved to Bend from Sammamish, Washington, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Preliminary investigation by Oregon State Police troopers indicates on June 24, 2006 at approximately 1:15 p.m., a 1998 Audi four-door driven by McSweeney was southbound on Highway 97 near milepost 196 when it passed three vehicles and moved back into the southbound lane.

Witnesses report the Audi moved too far across the southbound lane partially onto the soft shoulder, overcorrected and slid broadside into the northbound lane. The Audi was struck in the passenger side by a northbound 1988 Toyota Odyssey motorhome. After impact, the motorhome came to rest in the northbound lane and the Audi came to rest in the ditch on the northbound shoulder.

The driver of the motorhome, Erik Johnson, 57, from Silver Springs, Nevada, was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. The Audi's passenger, Gayle A. Vezina from New York; and the passenger of the motorhome, Teri Johnson of Nevada, were both pronounced deceased at the scene.

All persons involved in the accident were using safety restraints, with the exception of Johnson. Oregon State Police troopers from Gilchrist, Klamath Falls, and Bend are continuing the investigation. ODOT and U.S. Forest Service personnel assisted at the scene. The northbound lane was closed about four hours and the southbound lane closed about one hour.

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