

Two Drivers Arrested in Separate Alcohol-Related Crashes

by Bend Weekly News Sources

DUII incidents on the increase during hot weather

Oregon State Police investigated two separate crashes involving intoxicated drivers in central Oregon last Friday afternoon and evening. **DUII Crash, Highway 97 near Baker Road - OSP Photo** On July 21, 2006 at approximately 5:15 p.m., Oregon State Police responded to a single vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 97 near Baker Road. Preliminary investigation indicates a Subaru Legacy driven by Bruce Combs, 59, from Bend, drove onto the shoulder of the highway and then suddenly came back across both northbound lanes of traffic. The Subaru drove into the concrete divider causing a few sections of the cement to move about two feet. According to Oregon State Police Recruit April Lang, the cement center divider prevented a head-on crash from occurring. Witnesses reported that the vehicle was driving erratically prior to the crash. Combs was transported by ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. He was cited to appear in Deschutes County Circuit Court for Driving while Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Reckless Driving, Reckless Endangerment and Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree. **DUII Crash, South Century Drive near Spring River Road - OSP Photo** A second crash occurred at 7:20 p.m. on South Century Drive near Spring River Road. Preliminary investigation indicates a vehicle driven by Paul Cooley, age 21, was involved in a non-injury crash. Cooley was arrested for Driving while Under the Influence of Intoxicants after driving his car off the highway, and was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail. The Oregon State Police would like to remind drivers that alcohol-related incidents and crashes increase during hot weather periods as we are now experiencing. Motorists are asked to report to law enforcement any erratic or possibly intoxicated drivers that they observe by calling local 9-1-1 or Oregon State Police dispatch at 1-800-24-DRUNK (1-800-243-7865).

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