Calif. father connected with fatal hit-and-run found dead

by Cheryl McDermott

Bend Police have confirmed that a California man connected with the fatal hit-and-run death of a Bend bicyclist on Third Street near Powers Road last month has been found dead in a local motel.

George Harold Gooson (inset) - DCJ photo George Harold Goodson, a 51-year old San Diego resident, was found deceased by an employee of the Westward Ho Motel at 904 SE Third Street on Sunday. No further details were available due to the ongoing investigation.

Goodson and his son Christopher, 22, were to appear in court this week in connection with the April 17 early morning collision that killed 41-year old Kimberly Ann Potter â€“ a scene described by Bend Police Captain Jim Porter as â€œhorrificâ€•.

The father was accused of hindering prosecution in connection with the hit-and-run, and first-degree attempted aggravated theft. Captain Porter reported that George Goodson falsely reported his 2000 Mercedes Benz stolen with plans to defraud his insurance company. The vehicle, allegedly driven by his son and the vehicle that struck Potter, was later found torched on China Hat Road.

Goodson was one of four men arrested in connection with the hit-and-run. According to earlier news releases, Christopher Goodson, the alleged driver, remains in Deschutes County Jail where he is charged with criminally negligent homicide; second-degree manslaughter, assault, and conspiracy to commit arson; reckless driving; and reckless endangering.

In addition to the California father and son, Bend resident Robert Jennings Battles, 19, and 20-year old Eric Allen Brown, also of Bend and the step-brother of Christopher Goodson, were both arrested. Battles was charged with second-degree arson in connection with burning the Mercedes, and Brown is accused of second-degree arson, second-degree conspiracy to commit arson, hindering prosecution, tampering with physical evidence, two counts of possession of cocaine, and unlawful manufacture and delivery of cocaine.

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