

Drivers escape serious injury in two head-on crashes north of Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

The drivers of two pickups escaped serious injury when they collided head-on Monday evening about 15 miles north of Bend on Highway 20 near Harrington Loop Road; as did the drivers involved in a separate head-on crash with a flat-bed truck and car at the intersection of Tumalo Road and the Old Bend-Redmond Highway. The first accident occurred about 5:25 p.m. May 28, when Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Tumalo Road and the Old Bend-Redmond Highway, reported Sgt. Joe DeLuca.

A 1995 Chevrolet 3500 flat-bed truck driven by 19-year-old Matthew Anthony Courtright was traveling south on the Old Bend-Redmond Highway when it turned across traffic onto Tumalo Road and struck a northbound 2002 Mazda Protégé head-on in the intersection. Bend Fire medical personnel treated and released the Mazda's driver, 28-year old Michael Andrew Johnson, on scene for minor injuries. Courtright was not injured, DeLuca said. The second accident happened less than one hour later at 6:30 p.m. on Highway 20 near Harrington Loop Road, about 15 miles north of Bend, DeLuca and Cpl. Wayne Morgan wrote in a news release. Deputies and paramedics with Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire Department responded to the scene and discovered that a 1988 Ford pickup driven by Dan Bennett of Sisters lost control while speeding on Highway 20 and crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic, crashing head-on into a 2000 GMC pickup. The GMC's driver, 64-year old Jean Davis of Bend, tried unsuccessfully to avoid the crash by turning off the roadway. Both vehicles received extensive front-end damage, the sergeant said. Bennett and Davis, who were both wearing seatbelts, were treated for minor injuries by paramedics on scene and released. Bennett was cited for careless driving.

Alcohol is not considered a contributing factor in either of the collisions, DeLuca reported.

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