

Pedestrian Hit, Seriously Injured on Third Street

by Richard Burton

A Bend man, apparently intoxicated, suffered serious and potentially life-threatening injuries when he ran across southeast Third Street into the path of a sport utility vehicle.

Shortly before 9 p.m. Wednesday, August 30, Bend Police officers responded to the accident on southeast Third Street near McKinley Avenue and found Scott E. Thomas, age 50, lying in the street near the curb. Thomas sustained multiple fractures and was transported to St. Charles Medical Center by Bend Fire and Rescue. According to Lt. John Gautney, Thomas's injuries had the potential of being life-threatening, but as of early Thursday morning his condition was listed as "serious".

Preliminary investigation and witness interviews indicate that Thomas was running at a full sprint across Third Street near the Westward Ho Motel, and ran directly into the path of a 1990 Chevy Blazer driven by 19-year-old La Pine resident Tara Gardner. Gardner was traveling southbound in the outside lane and was unsuccessful in an attempt to avoid hitting Thomas.

Gardner had the right-of-way, said Gautney, and no citations were issued. She had no time to avoid the crash, he added.