Driver cited in Highway 97 crash that injures three

by Cheryl McDermott

A 59-year old Redmond man was cited for reckless driving in connection with a three-vehicle crash on Highway 97 just north of Redmond on Friday morning that blocked traffic for about an hour. Three people were transported to the hospital with what deputies reported were non life-threatening injuries.

Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies responded to a report of a three-vehicle collision at the intersection of Highway 97 and North Canal, just north of Redmond, Oregon shortly after 10 a.m., July 6, Sgt. Dan Swearingen and Deputy Troy Gotchy reported in a news release.

Preliminary investigation determined that a 2002 Ford van traveling north stopped on the highway in anticipation of turning left into an auto dealership when it was hit from behind by a 2000 Dodge Caravan driven by Larry Vernon Miller, 59, of Redmond, the deputies said.

After impact, Millerâ€™s Dodge crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic and stuck a 2003 Buick LaSabre on the left-front quarter panel and driverâ€™s door. The Buick left the highway on the west side and ended up on a frontage road, Swearingen and Gotchy said.

Miller and 53-year old William Dean Ream of Terrebonne, the driver of the Ford van, were both transported by Redmond Fire & Rescue ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center in Redmond.

The driver of the Buick received minor injuries and was taken to the hospital by a private party. She was identified as 72-year old Shirley Ann Butler of Terrebonne.

All persons involved were wearing seatbelts, deputies said, adding that the airbags of the Buick and Dodge both deployed.

While Swearingen and Gotchy said that alcohol was not a factor in the crash, Miller was cited for reckless driving.

Redmond Police officers and Oregon Department of Transportation personnel assisted with traffic control, and the roadway was reopened about an hour later.

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