

Bend driver dies after vehicle enters river

by Cheryl McDermott

A 71-year old woman from Bend died at the hospital from an apparent heart attack after her sport utility vehicle left the roadway and became partially submerged in the Deschutes River at Riverbend Park, police reported.

Bend police officers and fire department personnel responded to the scene at 700 SW Columbia shortly after 5:30 p.m., October 26, in response to a report of a vehicle in the river, Lt. Ken Mannix said.

When responders arrived, they found Shirlee Delany-Forsythe, 71, the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle, sitting along the river bank. A short time later, the victim went into cardiac arrest and was immediately transported to St. Charles Medical Center, where she was pronounced deceased, police reported.

“The front of the vehicle was only partially submerged and sustained no damage,” Mannix said.

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