

Bend man killed in Sisters wreck

A Bend man was killed when his vehicle was rear-ended on Highway 126 at Cloverdale Road just east of Sisters on Christmas Day. Captain Valoppi, of the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District, was returning home while off duty on December 25, and came upon the two-vehicle high-impact collision. Having his radio in hand, he alerted Deschutes County 911 dispatch, requesting a full motor-vehicle collision response, an extra ambulance, and to auto-launch an air ambulance.

Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded at approximately 1:15 p.m.

According to OSP, the preliminary investigation revealed that a blue 2013 Chevrolet Equinox, operated by David Jackson, age 58, of Bend, was slowing down in preparation for an upcoming left turn, when his vehicle was rear-ended by a maroon 2001 GMC Yukon, operated by Andria Mengucci, 40, of Madras.

Valoppi reported that “three bystanders were off-duty paramedics and a nurse, who assisted paramedics from Sisters Camp-Sherman Fire District, in the resuscitation of the driver of the Equinox. Subsequently he succumbed to his injuries

and was pronounced dead at St. Charles Bend shortly after 5 p.m. Tuesday, due to injuries from the crash.” Multiple passengers from both involved vehicles were transported and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Distracted driving is considered to be a contributing factor in this crash, OSP reports. A minor child in the offending vehicle was unrestrained and sustained minor injuries in the crash.

Highway 126 remained closed for close to two hours following the crash. OSP was assisted by ODOT, Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office, Cloverdale, Sisters, Black Butte Ranch and Redmond fire personnel.

The ongoing investigation has been referred to the Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office.

Cloverdale Fire Chief Thad Olsen reminds the public that “it only takes a moment of distraction while driving to become involved in a very serious accident. Especially in inclement weather and shifting road conditions.”

Olsen also extended his gratitude to the volunteer members of Cloverdale Fire, and partnering agencies who responded on this Christmas Day incident.

Christmas programs serve many

Sisters’ spirit of giving was on full display over the Christmas holiday.

Thanks to generous donations of gifts and money over the past six weeks, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association was able to provide Christmas gifts to 157 children for Christmas. Gifts were available to children age newborn to seniors in high school of low-income families who live within the Sisters or Black Butte School districts. Gifts were distributed to families on Saturday, December 22, along with gift certificates for food from Sisters Kiwanis Club, and pet food and gifts from Furry Friends Foundation. Total families served this year for all three programs was 166.

Furry Friends Foundation reported serving 446 pets on December 22, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats, rabbits, hamsters, turtles, birds (dove, parakeets, cockatiel, chickens and peacocks) and one beta fish.

“All in all it was a fantastic day. I joked to a friend it was like we set up large pet pop-up store, or make that a “pup-up” store,” said FFF founder Kiki Dolson. “In addition to pet food, there were pet beds, toys, chews and treats. There were colorful cat mats and dog coats handmade by Valerie Fercho-Tillery. Heartwarmers had given us a huge bag of dog tug toys made from their



PHOTO PROVIDED

Volunteers served 126 meals on Christmas at the Sisters Fire Station Community Hall.

blanket scraps. “The people who came were so appreciative, it really is a joy to volunteer that day. One individual sent a lengthy text shortly after returning home, voicing his surprise and gratitude after a difficult year for his family. It brought a tear to more than one of us,” Dolson said.

On Christmas Day, The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District and the Sisters-Camp

Sherman Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Association volunteers and staff prepared and served a traditional Christmas dinner to 126 people at the Sisters Fire Station Community Hall.

“We had a great turnout of volunteers who helped cook, serve and clean after the event,” reported Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Public Information Officer Julie Spor.

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