

CRASH: 'It could have been so much worse.'

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Gardner was transported to the hospital soon after the crash. Although the accident appeared serious, Gardner suffered just a concussion, as well as some minor scrapes and cuts, and was released from the hospital later that day.

"It is a miracle that he didn't get hurt any more," said Lexy Collins, Gardner's girlfriend. "I don't understand how he was able to just walk away from that and that no one else was hurt. It could have been so much worse."

Wenning says that neither drugs nor alcohol played a role in the crash.

"The hospital did their customary blood draw since it involved a crash and the driver was transported (to the hospital). There was no indication of impairment observed by the officer and the hospital has not notified us of a B.A.C. (Blood Alcohol Concentration)," he said.

Collins confirmed that Gardner's medical emergency was a seizure, and that it was something he had never experienced before.

"It was the first time he had ever had a seizure and been unconscious," she said.

According to Collins, Gardner, who lives in Keizer, was on his way home from working in Brooks when he blacked out while driving by Hitchin Post Restaurant, and then started convulsing at the River Rd. and Chemawa intersection.

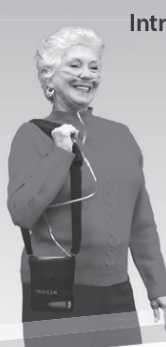
"He doesn't remember turning onto River Rd. He remembers seeing Hitchin Post, and that's it," Collins said.

The cause of Gardner's seizure is still unknown. Collins says that Gardner is waiting to get results from an MRI and EEG. He also will be seeing a neurologist later this month.

Although Gardner was able to return to work this week, doctors have advised him to refrain from driving for at least three months.




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Cat of the Week

Name: WILLOW
Age: 7

HISTORY: Willow is a domestic medium hair mix. She was adopted from the shelter years ago but was recently found as a stray.

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