

Curve: Problematic curve was site of dangerous collision

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away with scrapes and bruises, but the couple's emotional scars will take longer to heal. They now sleep on an air mattress in the living room.

Police Chief Matt Workman sent a letter last month to Oregon Department of Transportation Manager Mark Buffington, asking the state to make safety improvements to the busy thoroughfare. Northwest Warrenton Drive is part of State Highway 104 and all changes must be made by ODOT.

"It's the first accident I can remember at that corner," Workman said. "Does that mean it doesn't have potential for more?"

Workman wants the state to move back its sign lowering the speed limit from 45 to 35 so that drivers have more time to prepare for the curve. ODOT workers were sent out to replace signs that previously had been knocked down or

removed, including one that warns of elk in the area.

But other changes will take time.

"The chief's letter was pretty well written and explains it really well," the ODOT's Buffington said. He assigned a



Courtesy Warrenton Police Department

Northwest Warrenton Drive approaches a curve before it becomes Pacific Drive. New signs warning of the curve and elk were posted recently.

Below: A view from inside the Spiveys' bedroom.



crash history."

The agency gets plenty of requests similar to Warrenton's, anything from adding extra lighting to fixing guardrails to adjusting speed limits.

"Maybe the speed limit was determined or a guard rail built a long time ago and there have been changes, such as houses have gone in, an area gets busier," Buffington said. "We re-examine those spots."

Changes are made in response to requests about 25 percent of the time, he said.

Signs may help, but they'll do little to prevent accidents caused by intoxicated drivers, homeowner Spivey admits.

"You can have a sign, but if someone is intoxicated .22, they're not going to pay attention to the sign," she said. "If it wasn't our house that

got hit, it could have happened to the house right behind us."

She'd like to see some boulders or other barricades put up to protect her family and her home, which was repaired two weeks ago.

"I would hate for anybody to wreck and die, but they literally almost took our lives away," Spivey said of driver William Page-Lagerquist.

The 21-year-old Warrenton man was injured in the Dec. 7 crash, when he was ejected from the vehicle.

A police report says Page-Lagerquist was speeding when he failed to negotiate the curve, traveled several hundred feet before crashing into a berm, the Spiveys' fence and, finally,

landing upside down inside the house.

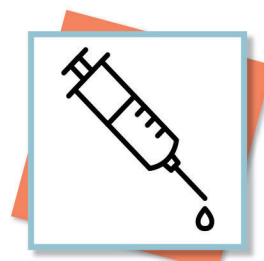
He was taken by ambulance to Columbia Memorial Hospital and arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of intoxicants, three counts of reckless driving and driving without a license or insurance.

An investigation of the case is ongoing, Deputy District Attorney Paul Charas said Wednesday, and he's waiting for more information before a decision is made on charging Page-Lagerquist.

The city of Warrenton owns the triangular-shaped piece of land between the highway and the Spiveys' home.

The City Commission, which discussed the safety concerns Tuesday night, is waiting for the report from the state and may consider installing barriers at the curve.

Let's End the Pandemic



Get vaccinated when you can.



Wear a mask.



Stay 6-feet away from others and avoid crowds.



Wash hands often.

Hwy. 26 crash kills 3, seriously injures a fourth

Three people died and a fourth person was seriously injured Wednesday in a two-car crash on Highway 26.

A man driving a Mercedes station wagon was headed west about 10 a.m. near the Necanicum Highway when he lost control and the vehicle began sliding sideways into the eastbound lanes,

according to Oregon State Police. The vehicle struck an oncoming Toyota Tacoma.

The station wagon driver, Walter Smith, 21, of Pendleton, and his two passengers, Erick Fadness, 20, of Decorah, Iowa, and a 16-year-old girl from Portland, died at the scene.

The Toyota's driver, Natalie

Swauger, 30, of Seaside, was seriously injured and taken by air ambulance to a Portland hospital.

Speed was likely a contributing factor to the accident, according to OSP.

Seaside Police Department and Oregon Department of Transportation assisted at the scene.