

Five people injured in recent Scottsburg traffic accidents

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 12 October 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 October 2010 11:52

Of the seven traffic accidents occurring in Scottsburg since Thursday, October 7, five of those mishaps involved injuries to either drivers or passengers.

City officers responded to the first personal injury accident at 9 a.m. on October 7 in the 200 block of Estil Street.

Donna Banks, 51, Underwood, was driving her 1996 Ford Taurus west on Estil Street when she said a Sheriff's Department patrol car edged into the middle of the intersection of Estil and North Third Streets.

The patrol car's appearance startled both Banks and her son. The boy said he grabbed the steering wheel to help his mother prevent a collision, but the car's brakes locked up and it slid into a parked 1990 Chevy 1500 pickup truck at the side of the road. That crash caused the pickup to move backward, and its hitch struck the front of a 2006 Chrysler 300. Both parked vehicles belonged to Hershel "Bill" Simpson Jr.

The officer driving the patrol car, Deputy Mark Shapinsky, explained to Sgt. Joe Nicholson of the Scottsburg City Police that he was northbound on North Third and had stopped at Estil, but parked vehicles hindered his line of vision so he nosed his car out to check for on-coming traffic.

He said he witnessed the car sliding through the intersection to hit the pickup truck. Skid marks measured a little over 63 feet.

Banks was listed as injured, suffering a minor head wound. No medical assistance was summoned, according to the report.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$5,000.

That same day, Sgt. Brian Hall, Lt. Richey Barton and Deputy Rodney Rudder were dispatched just after 5 p.m. to a one-vehicle accident at the entrance of the housing complex known as Spalding Square off State Road 56 West.

No statements could be taken from driver Stephen J. Lane, 26, Mitchell, because of his injuries. He was found lying facedown on the grassy verge by Sgt. Hall after he had apparently been thrown from the 2001 Pontiac Sunfire that he had been driving. Lane was taken by Scott County EMS to Scott Memorial Hospital.

According to witnesses' statements, Lane reportedly tried to pass another eastbound vehicle in a no passing zone. He lost control of the Sunfire, went off the road and struck a utility pole, and the car rolled a couple of times before coming to a rest.

Lane's passenger, identified as Stacey L. Reynolds, 37, Orleans, had minor facial bleeding.

The officer requested both a blood alcohol test and drug screen be performed on Lane because of several pieces of drug paraphernalia found in and outside the car, the accident report noted.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$10,000 and included the utility pole owned by Frontier Telephone Service and damage to the housing complex lawn.

The next injury accident occurred at 12:16 p.m. on Saturday, October 9, on Wardell Street at Hazzard Street.

Driver Deborah L. Napier, 57, Austin, was driving a 2005 Chevy Tahoe south on Hazzard St. when, as she approached the streets' intersection, she saw a faded sign which she said she did

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not realize was a stop sign.

She proceeded into the intersection and was struck by a 2002 Dodge Durango driven by Sebastian L. Rodgers, 18, Scottsburg.

After getting the drivers' statements, Lt. Barton noted on his report that the stop sign was faded but still recognizable as a stop sign. He said it also had a one-way sign posted beneath it.

Napier suffered contusions and bruises to her knee/lower leg/foot and was treated at the scene by Scott County EMS and then transported to Scott Memorial Hospital.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$10,000.

Lt. Barton was assisted at the scene by Patrolman Rodney Watts.

Late Sunday afternoon, October 10, the last PI accident happened on U.S. Highway 31 at S.R. 56. Drivers were identified as Steven J. Vernon, 25, Scottsburg, and Shannan Richie, 47, Scottsburg.

Vernon said he was approaching the streets' intersections and reached in back of his 2002 GMC Sierra. When he turned back around, he said he saw that Richie's 2000 Chevy S10 had stopped. He hit the back of the woman's pickup.

Richie suffered pain in her shoulder/upper arm and was treated by Scott County EMS. Vernon was not injured.

Property damage was listed at up to \$2,500.

Lt. Barton investigated the accident and was assisted by Sheriff John Lizenby and Reserve Deputy Mike Tscheulin.