

Teenager, sister among three hurt in U.S. 31-S.R. 356 accident on Tuesday morning

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 17 October 2012 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 October 2012 07:55

A teenage driver and his sister were among those injured in an early morning accident on Tuesday, October 9, at an intersection south of Scottsburg notorious as the site of bad car wrecks.

Jacob Thompson, 16, West Leota Road, was at the wheel of a 2000 Mustang GT just before 7:30 a.m. His passenger was his 12-year-old sister, Kourtnei Thompson.

The brother and sister were headed east toward the intersection of Leota Road/U.S. Highway 31 South. The teenager told Deputy Rodney Rudder of the Sheriff's Department that he did not see a southbound 2002 Nissan Altima being driven by Raymond E. Pruitt, 63, Scottsburg.

As the boy pulled out from the country road, the Mustang was struck on the driver's side by Pruitt.

The boy suffered possible broken ribs, while the girl and Pruitt each said they were experiencing chest pain. All were treated at the scene by Scott County EMS and First Responders, who rushed to the scene after a 9-1-1 call was made.

All were transported to Scott Memorial Hospital by ambulance.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$50,000.

Deputy Rudder was assisted at the scene by Detective Rick Barrett and Chief Deputy Donald Campbell. All are officers with the Sheriff's Department and very familiar with the intersection.

The crossroads of U.S. 31/Leota Road and State Road 356 where the mishap occurred has been the scene of several other injury accidents over the years, including one which killed three Floyd County teenagers and injured three other people.

Following that tragedy, the Indiana Department of Transportation upgraded warning signals and markings to advise motorists approaching the intersection from both Leota Rd. and S.R. 356.

The accident on Tuesday wasn't the first injury wreck officers worked recently.

On Saturday, October 7, at 7:30 p.m., Deputies James Shelton and Rudder were dispatched to the scene of a crash 450 feet east of the intersection of West Lake and South Lake Roads.

According to information received by Deputy Shelton, a 1986 Ford Ranger being driven by Kimberly M. Niece, Jeffersonville, attempted to pass another eastbound vehicle on the country road.

She instead struck a westbound 1999 Dodge Caravan operated by Beulah A. Dearborn, 28, Salem, head-on.

Niece reportedly suffered a possible broken hip/upper leg in the accident. Also injured were Dearborn's three passengers, Anita S. Dearborn, 56, Venita Hill, 56, and Mark Small, 51, all of Salem. Anita Dearborn had facial abrasions. Hill experienced back pain, while Small had pain in his shoulder/upper arm.

Scott County EMS technicians and First Responders worked the scene, moving all injured to Scott Memorial for more treatment.

Deputy Shelton estimated property damage at up to \$25,000.

Just after 4 a.m. on Sunday, October 7, Deputies Shelton and Rudder were sent to another injury accident, this time at the intersection of Double or Nothing Road and State Road 56 East.

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Faulty brakes on a 2001 Ford Ranger apparently caused Timothy W. Butler III, 19, Deputy, to be unable to stop at the T intersection as he drove north on the county road. The Ranger traveled across S.R. 56, becoming airborne. The vehicle came down, struck the ground and came to rest in a corn field.

Butler suffered pain in his hip/upper leg. He was treated at the scene and then transported to the local hospital by Scott County EMS.

A passenger, Joseph Dunn, was apparently uninjured.

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

Scottsburg policemen were sent to Westwood Golf Course late Wednesday afternoon, October 10, to investigate a most unusual accident at one of the golf course's tee boxes.

Sgt. Brian Hall and Patrolman Trevis Burr learned that Dorothy J. Robison, 84, had turned off S.R. 56 West onto Willowshore Drive, where she planned to turn east to go into her the drive near her apartment.

The apartment complex is located just east of the golf course facilities. Robison said she was unable to get her 2009 Mercury Sable to stop. She said the car took off at a high speed, traveling up a small hill and striking an embankment before crossing onto the tee box, which was, thankfully, empty of golfers.

After Robison thought about the incident, Sgt. Hall noted that the woman told him she might have thought she had her foot on the brake but may have accidentally pushed down on the gas pedal instead.

Robison suffered neck pain after the incident, while her passenger, husband Albert Robison, had a minor head wound. EMS technicians were on the scene to assist the couple.

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