

## Driver in January 7 wreck still hospitalized; two more crashes investigated

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 16 January 2013 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 16 January 2013 08:11

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The identification of a driver badly injured after a collision at the intersection of Boatman Road and State Road 56 on Monday, January 7, has been released.

Sheriff's deputies have also investigated one fatal accident on January 9 in Lexington and a second serious crash that happened early Sunday morning, January 13.

Both occurred along different sections of State Road 356.

In the January 7 accident, Corey S. Zollman-Carroll, 22, Scottsburg, was in the 1993 Toyota Corolla that was "t-boned" at the intersection of Boatman Road and State Road 56 west of Scottsburg at 11:35 a.m.

The impact was tremendous between the two vehicles, the Toyota crossing S.R. 56 northbound on Boatman Rd. and a 1996 Dodge Ram pickup truck driven west on the highway by Brenda J. Newby, 57, Scottsburg.

When the two met, the collision caused the Toyota to tip onto the driver's side and then crash top-first into a utility pole.

The pole crunched the top of the vehicle badly, trapping Zollman-Carroll inside as the vehicle lay in a roadside ditch. Newby's truck also ended up in a roadside ditch with severe damage to its front.

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Firefighters with the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, assisted by Scottsburg's department, worked 15 to 20 minutes to free the man as Scott County EMS technicians assisted the young man. He suffered a head wound among other injuries.

Zollman-Carroll was loaded onto a waiting medical helicopter and flown south to University of Louisville Hospital for treatment of his injuries. He is reportedly still in intensive care at the facility.

Newby's injuries, according to the report written by Deputy Rodney Rudder, involved chest pain. She too was assisted by Scott County EMS personnel.

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

Rudder was assisted at the scene by Sheriff Dan McClain and Chief Deputy Don Campbell.

Scott County's first fatality accident of 2013 happened shortly after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9, just past Leroy's Grocery on S.R. 356.

Lexington volunteer firemen joined Deputies Joe Guarneri and Jeremy Arnold and Sheriff Dan McClain at the scene after receiving 9-1-1 calls concerning the single car accident.

A witness told Deputy Guarneri that he saw the eastbound red 1996 Chrysler Sebring convertible "...driving fast..." on S.R. 356. The person said he did not see the car leave the road and crash in a small ravine but later saw the car in the depression.

Deputy Guarneri's report related that the car, operated by Michael A. Coomer, 33, Spring Hill, Fl., went off the south side of the highway, entering a front yard and then going into the small ravine and striking a concrete culvert head-on.

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Coomer suffered a severe head wound and other injuries. He was trapped inside the car. Rescuers at first released the convertible top in hopes of freeing the man, but firefighters with the Lexington department had to use the Jaws of Life to free him from the wreckage.

Scott County Coroner Jerry Buchanan pronounced Coomer dead at the scene. The man had reportedly been on his way to see his brother when the accident occurred.

The deputy's report noted that Coomer had not been wearing his seatbelt at the time of the wreck and that the car's airbag did not deploy. Property damage was listed at up to \$25,000.

Troopers with the Indiana State Police spent some time at the scene reconstructing the accident. Traffic was diverted onto nearby streets as the investigation continued.

Coomer's funeral was conducted on Monday, January 14, at the Buchanan Funeral Home in Austin. Burial was in Spurgeon Cemetery near Austin.

Another man was critically injured in a single-vehicle accident just before 3:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, January 13.

In the mishap, a 2009 Chevy Cobalt being driven west on S.R. 356 by Chad E. Clemons, 23, of Kentucky, went off the road around the vicinity of Slate Ford Road and struck a utility pole.

Deputy Joe Johnson found Clemons and his passenger, Gregory Keegan Miller, 22, Scottsburg, inside the wreckage of the car when he arrived in response to a 9-1-1 call.

Most of the collision's impact was on the passenger side where Miller was seated. Miller was taken to University of Louisville Hospital with severe injuries. Clemons was treated at Scott Memorial Hospital and released.

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Though the Sheriff's Department had originally been informed that Miller had died on Monday, latest word on Tuesday, January 15, indicated that the critically-injured man was still a patient at U of L Hospital.

An investigation into the county's accident is continuing.