

More snow, more accidents keep law enforcement departments busy on highways

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 18 February 2014 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 18 February 2014 14:03

Information about more injury vehicle crashes that have occurred recently in Scottsburg and Scott County has been released by law enforcement agencies.

At 2:15 p.m. on February 7, a driver on a county road was injured in an accident. Barry K. Griffith, 58, Scottsburg, told Chief Deputy Don Campbell that he had been headed east on Kinderhook Road in his 1995 Geo Metro when he met a westbound vehicle traveling in his lane at a hillcrest.

Griffith swerved to miss the on-coming vehicle and apparently over-corrected. The Geo left the road and struck a tree.

The driver suffered minor facial bleeding. He was trapped inside the small car, which rescuers located about 1,000 feet east of State Road 3. The man was treated at the scene by Scott County EMS technicians.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$10,000 by Chief Deputy Campbell. He was assisted at the scene by Detective Rick Barrett and Sheriff Dan McClain.

A horrific one-car accident occurred on Tuesday, February 11, at the I-65 exit ramp to State Road 256 at the Austin interchange.

Denver Keith Napier, an Austin resident, was driving a Chrysler convertible which went out of control after drifting toward packed ice and snow on the left side of the ramp. The car flipped several times, witnesses said.

He suffered head and neck trauma and was air-lifted by Life Flight to U of L Hospital, where he

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remains hospitalized.

The accident was investigated by ISP Trooper Tracy Spencer with assistance from the Sheriff's Department and Austin Police Department. Firemen with the Jennings Township department and Scott County EMS technicians also covered the scene.

On Thursday, February 13, just after 6 p.m., three people were reported injured in a two-car accident at Slab Road and Cutshall Roads in the New Providence neighborhood.

Mary D. Hoard, 74, Austin, was driving her 2003 Nissan Maxima west on Cutshall Rd. She told Deputy Joe Guarneri that she came to the intersection with the north-south Slab Rd. and then continued across it, not seeing a 2003 Dodge Stratus coming north and driven by Christy M. Cowan, 21, Austin.

Cowan's car t-boned the Maxima on the driver's side. The collision caused Hoard's car to travel onto New Providence Baptist Church property and then strike the church's front steps, where it came to rest. Hoard was trapped inside the damaged vehicle, but her ten-year-old passenger, Issac Miskell, Austin, was not.

Jennings Township volunteer firemen pulled the car apart and freed the injured Hoard, who suffered a possible hip/upper leg injury, the report noted. The child experienced head pain. Cowan was listed with a possible elbow/lower arm injury.

All were assisted at the scene by Scott County EMS, which transported the injured to Scott Memorial Hospital.

In total, property damage was estimated at up to \$50,000 by Deputy Guarneri. He was assisted at the scene by Deputy Jeremy Arnold.

Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14, turned out not to be a romantic time for several people

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involved in crashes attributed to the snowstorm that began around 2:30 p.m. in Scott County.

Of reports available from that day, the first injury accident took place at 1:49 a.m. on State Road 203 about a mile north of State Road 56 East and, unfortunately, involved a sheriff's deputy and a deer.

Deputy Joe Johnson, 37, Scottsburg, had been patrolling in the area in his unit, a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria. He told Scottsburg Patrolman Shawn Hurt that he was distracted by the sight of two deer standing along the east side of the road. When he turned his attention back to the highway, a third deer was in his headlights.

He struck the animal, a collision which caused severe damage to the front of the patrol car and the airbag to deploy. Deputy Johnson suffered abrasions to an elbow/lower arm in the mishap.

Ptl. Hurt estimated property damage at up to \$10,000. He was assisted at the scene by Patrolman James Vires.

Another injury crash that day happened on South Main Street at Newman Street in Scottsburg just after 3 p.m.

Gerald R. Younger, 18, Salem, related to Scottsburg Patrolman Trevis Burr that he had tried to turn east onto Newman St. from S. Main St. The 1995 Buick Riviera he was driving slid on the snowy road surface and struck a city-owned stop sign and utility pole.

Younger suffered bruises and contusions to his head in the mishap. Damage was estimated at up to \$5,000.

Sgt. Rodney Watts assisted at the scene.

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The accidents kept on happening. At 7:23 p.m., Deputy Johnson was dispatched to an crash on State Road 56 East about 500 feet east of S.R. 3.

At this accident, he found three injured people. Driver Billie J. Amburgey, 19, Madison, suffered a possible neck injury after her 2000 Chevy Cavalier slid on ice and snow and struck a guardrail.

Her passengers were identified as Scott C. Amburgey, 21, Austin, and Brittany D. Ross, 22, Carrollton, Ky. Scott Amburgey was listed with head pain. Ross experienced neck pain. The two women were assisted by Scott County EMS technicians.

Damage to the car was listed at under \$1,001. Deputy Johnson was assisted at the scene by Deputy Shawn Mayer.

Another one-vehicle accident occurred just after 11 p.m. on Concord Road about 1,000 feet north of New London Road in Lexington Township. Deputy Johnson was dispatched and was assisted by Reserve Deputy Jimmy Wampler.

Upon arrival, the officers found driver Savannah L. Neal, 27, Lexington with her 1998 Honda Civic.

Neal said she was traveling south when her car began sliding and struck a wall. The impact caused the car to end at a right angle to the road.

Neal told the officers that she was experiencing head pain but declined medical assistance.

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