

Glaring sun a factor in injury crash; two arrested in wreck on Cutshall Road

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 01 April 2014 13:42

Two drivers were injured in an accident on Thursday, March 20, in which sunshine was a factor. In another injury crash on March 26, two people involved in the mishap were arrested.

In the accident on March 20, Sarah D. Wilson, 64, Crothersville, was driving her 2002 Chevy Cavalier south on U.S. Highway 31 just before 4:30 p.m. when she struck the rear-end of a 2004 Buick LeSabre driven by Janice S. Smith, 54, Austin. Smith was attempting to turn left into a driveway about 1,000 feet south of Van Campen Road. The intersection is located just south of the Austin city limits.

Wilson told Deputy Joe Guarneri of the Sheriff's Department that she was hampered in seeing ahead of her because of sun glare on her windshield. She said she did not see Smith's car stopped and waiting to turn until it was too late.

The impact knocked both vehicles off U.S. 31 on its west side. Scott County EMS and First Responders with the Jennings Township Volunteer Fire Department assisted at the scene. Wilson suffered a possible injury to her knee/lower leg/foot. Smith experienced neck pain.

Deputy Guaneri estimated property damage to be up to \$25,000. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

The second mishap was actually two that followed one another within seconds on a stretch of Cutshall Road southeast of Austin on March 28.

In the first accident, a tan 1998 Plymouth Breeze driven by Sara Wells, 24, Scottsburg, sideswiped a 2005 Scion driven by Kristina Brooke Stanley, 16, Austin. The mishap tore off the cars' side mirrors and did some body damage.

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Stanley told Deputy Rodney Rudder tht as she was traveling east, the westbound Plymouth came over a small hill in the middle of the road and that was why contact was made by the two vehicles.

The teenager was scared by the impact and she over-corrected her steering, causing her to slide over into the left, or westbound, lane. That was when her car struck another westbound car, a 2007 Dodge Caliber driven by Anthony R. Spicer, 26, Scottsburg.

The impact tore away most of the front ends of the cars. Stanley's car did not have air bags, and the teenager suffered a fractured vertebrae in her back as well as other injuries to a shoulder.

Spicer was apparently uninjured. Stanley was transported to Scott Memorial Hospital by Scott County EMS. She was later transferred to Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, Ky.

Chief Deputy Don Campbell and Deputy Rudder reportedly became suspicious at the scene of the wreck when they received conflicting information from Wells and Spicer. The pair apparently first stated that Wells had been driving the Dodge and Spicer, the Plymouth.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed with Spicer's charges, Spicer later admitted to Chief Deputy Campbell that he had been driving the Dodge and that Wells had driven him away from the scene.

Spicer and Wells were taken into custody and transported to the Scott County Security Center.

Wells was charged in Scott Superior Court with false reporting or informing, a Class B misdemeanor. Spicer has been charged in the same court with failure to stop after a personal injury accident, a Class B misdemeanor; operating a motor vehicle when never received a license, a Class C misdemeanor; and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class D felony. He allegedly admitted to having recently used marijuana, according to the affidavit.

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At their initial hearings on March 28, Wells was given a preliminary trial date of May 20. Her bond was set at \$5,000 corporate surety bond/10% cash, but she was released on her own recognizance pending her trial.

A trial date of June 19 was scheduled for Spicer in that court. He was appointed a public defender. His bond was set at \$5,000 corporate surety/10% cash. Spicer was released on a cash bond that same day.