

## Three people injured in recent vehicle crashes on Scottsburg, county roads

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 16 April 2014 00:00 -

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Reports filed with the Sheriff's Department and the Scottsburg Police Department indicated that three people have been hurt in recent vehicle accidents.

Sabrina Auer, 25, Lexington, suffered contusions and bruises to her face and head in an accident on March 26. The crash occurred just before 4:30 p.m. on State Road 56 approximately 800 feet east of its intersection with McNeely Road.

Auer could not remember details of the mishap, but the driver of the car she struck, Richard Lee, 54, Bardstown, Ky., provided a statement to Deputy Jeremy Arnold.

Lee told Arnold that he had been traveling west in his 2006 Ford Taurus when he saw Auer's eastbound 1999 Chevy Cavalier run off S.R. 56 on its south side. Then, the woman apparently over-corrected her steering, which caused the Cavalier to spin out of control into the westbound lane.

The car hit his Taurus while moving backwards toward him, Lee stated.

Auer was apparently not using her seatbelt harness when the accident occurred, according to the report. Lee's airbags deployed because of the impact, and those devices and his seatbelt aided in protecting him.

Property damage was estimated by the deputy to be up to \$10,000. Officers assisting at the scene included Indiana State Police Trooper Brian Busick and Reserve Deputy Bobby Thompson.

Scottsburg Sgt. Brian Hall was dispatched to the scene of a collision just before 5 p.m. on March 3 on U.S. Highway 31 North about 300 feet south of Curtsinger Drive.

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The accident involved a 1999 Chevy Malibu driven by Rick K. Romans, 52, Scottsburg, and a 2012 Kia Sorento SUV driven by Robert B. Houston, 47, Scottsburg.

Romans and Houston told the officer that Houston had slowed because of traffic, and Romans had struck the rear of the Kia as both were traveling south.

Houston's passenger, Angela M. Houston, 36, Scottsburg, suffered neck pain following the mishap.

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

On Friday, March 4, another accident occurred on U.S. 31, this time just before noon and about 1,000 feet north of the highway's intersection with Coffee Pot Road.

Deputy Arnold again investigated. He was assisted by Chief Deputy Don Campbell and Detective Rick Barrett at the scene.

Jeffrey Webb, 16, Austin, told the deputy that he had been driving south on U.S. 31 when a vehicle in front of him suddenly braked.

He swerved his 2000 Chevy pickup truck into the northbound lane to avoid a rear-end collision. He struck a 2002 Pontiac Firebird head-on that was being driven by Melissa A. Bowles, 46, Underwood.

Bowles was trapped inside the crumpled Firebird. Jennings Township volunteer firemen freed her while Scott County EMS technicians aided her with medical treatment. She was transported to Scott Memorial Hospital by ambulance.

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Because of the damage, both vehicles were towed from the scene. Deputy Arnold listed property loss at up to \$10,000.