

Sudden rash of vehicular crashes at end of June, start of July injures dozen people

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 15 July 2015 00:00 -

Officers with the Sheriff's Department and Scottsburg Police Department were busy on local roads and streets investigating a rash of accidents that began at the end of June and continued on to Saturday, July 11.

A total of 12 people were listed as injured in the mishaps.

At 6:17 p.m. on Friday, June 26, an accident on Salem Road 1,000 west west of its intersection with Bloomington Trail Road in Vienna Township injured a 17-year-old driver.

Trenton M. Bowling, Scottsburg, was driving east on Salem Rd. When he said he met a westbound vehicle in a curve. He said the 2007 Dodge Caliber he was driving was forced off the road. The car went through a privately-owned fence and landed in a ditch, according to Deputy Joe Guarneri's report.

Bowling experienced chest pain following the mishap. He was treated at the scene by Scott County EMS technicians.

Approximately \$10,000 in damage was caused by the accident.

Deputy Guarneri was assisted at the scene by Deputy Joe Johnson and Reserve Deputy Ron Howard.

Two injury accidents occurred in the county on Monday, June 29.

The first happened at 2:40 p.m. on State Road 56 West about 1,000 feet west of Moon Road. Deputy Rodney Rudder, Chief Deputy Don Campbell and Sheriff Dan McClain were dispatched to the site, located in a hilly part of S.R. 56. Albert Swank, 64, Scottsburg, was the driver. He told Deputy Rudder he started his workshift at 3 a.m. and that he thought he had fallen asleep

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on the way home.

His 1993 Cadillac Eldorado ran off S.R. 56 and landed in a water-filled ditch, causing extensive damage to the auto.

Swank suffered a fractured/dislocated knee/lower leg/ankle in the mishap. He was treated by Scott County EMS and then transported to Scott Memorial Hospital.

Property damage was estimated at up to \$25,000.

At 7:47 p.m. that evening, Deputy Guarneri, Deputy Johnson and Reserve Deputy Howard were sent out to Lexington Township to an reported accident on Concord Road 200 feet north of its intersection with Mace Road.

Officers found drivers Keeth E. Lucas, 44, Lexington, and Wade C. Roberts, 52, Henryville, both of whom were injured.

The men told Deputy Guarneri that Lucas was driving north and Roberts south when their vehicles met on Concord Rd. Each said the other man struck his vehicle. Both the 1989 Chevy truck and Roberts' 1998 Mark 8 Lincoln had what appeared to be sideswipe damage on the drivers' sides as well as front-end damage.

Additionally, Lucas suffered a minor head wound, which Roberts experienced chest pain. They were treated at the scene by Scott County EMS technicians.

Both were also ticketed by Deputy Guarneri. Lucas received tickets for operating a motor vehicle without proof of financial responsibility and driving while his license was suspended. Roberts was also charged with those infractions as well as having expired license plates.

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

On July 1, 2 and 3, Scottsburg police investigated three injury accidents.

The first happened on July 1 at 7:39 p.m. at Cherry and South Main Streets. Drivers were identified as Kasey Begley, 24, Austin, and Ebony L. Reul, 46, Scottsburg.

According to information collected by Sgt. Brian Hall, Begley was driving a 2005 Chevy Malibu east on Cherry St. She told the officer that she might have rolled through the stop sign, doing what the woman described as a "California roll." She struck the 2014 Ford Focus being driven north by Reul. A witness to the accident verified that Begley did not stop. Begley later said she thought the intersection was a four-way stop.

Reul received neck abrasions in the mishap, which caused up to \$10,000 in property damage. Her passenger, Olivia Reul, 14, experienced abdominal/pelvic pain. Both were treated at the scene by Scott County EMS technicians, who took the young teenager to Scott Memorial Hospital.

Sgt. Hall was assisted at the scene by Patrolman Troy Ford.

At 11:10 a.m. on July 2, Sgt. Joe Nicholson, Sgt. Hall and Deputy Rodney Rudder were dispatched to the scene of a two-vehicle accident on S.R. 56 west of its intersection with Lake Road and in front of Big O Tires.

Sgt. Nicholson learned that Frank N. Coomer, 83, Austin, had been driving his 1997 Buick LeSabre east on S.R. 56 when he became involved in the accident with a 2005 Mitsubishi Lancer operated by Bog O employee Zackary D. Deaton, 21, Scottsburg.

The complicated story told by the drivers and a witness indicated that Deaton had been driving a customer's car east and trying to make a right turn into the dealership. However, a vehicle

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with a trailer was backing out of the entrance, so Deaton said he swerved left to avoid the trailer and then signaled that he was trying to enter the parking lot. He said he was hit in the rear by Coomer, but Coomer said he was struck by the Mitsubishi. A witness said she watched the accident happen while sitting at the entrance/exit onto S.R. 56 from Wal-Mart. The woman said she saw Deaton hit Coomer as he turned right from the highway's center turn lane.

Coomer suffered a possible lower arm/elbow injury in the mishap. He was treated at the scene by Scott County EMS staff.

Property damage was estimated by the officer up to \$5,000.

A dangerous accident on Interstate 65 southbound 100 feet south of the 28.5 mile marker could have been much, much worse on Friday, July 3. Patrolman Shawn Hurt, Ptl. Ford and Ptl. Travis Rutherford all responded to the dispatch of an injury accident just after 9:30 p.m.

The mishap involved four vehicles, a 2012 Hyundai Sonata driven by T. L. Leroy, 24, Indianapolis; a 2006 Toyota Corolla driven by Kody C. Gibson, 30, Louisville, Ky.; a 2005 Chevy Malibu driven by Seth J. Collins, 28, Columbus; and a 2010 Dodge Caravan mini-van driven by Christopher M. Bond, 47, Morehead, Ky. From what Ptl. Hurt was told, all were southbound on I-65 when a vehicle in front of Leroy struck and killed a deer. Leroy said the body was still on the interstate so he hit his brakes, and Gibson struck him in the rear.

Gibson's Corolla started spinning after the crash, and the front of his car was struck by Collins. The Toyota finally came to rest in the southbound lanes facing north. Collins braked but his wheels locked up, he said, and he then hit Leroy's Sonata in the rear. Bond said the Malibu sideswiped the passenger side of his mini-van, and he was forced into the median. He managed to get the Caravan back on the highway, however.

Scott County EMS and First Responders and firemen with the Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department were on the scene quickly to help. Gibson experienced chest pain, while Collins may have suffered an abdominal/pelvic injury. Gibson's passenger, Juli M. Gibson, 29, had minor bleeding to her knee/lower leg/foot. The injured were treated at the scene and then transported to Scott Memorial Hospital for additional attention. Property damage was estimated at up to \$50,000.

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A Saturday, July 11, accident involved three vehicles and happened at 12:35 p.m. at the intersection of S.R. 56 West and Beechwood Avenue.

Benjamin L. Bowsman, 39, Salem, was driving west on S.R. 56 in his Ford Ranger when he said he did not see that the Toyota Camry in front of him had stopped.

The Ranger hit the back of the 2012 Camry forcing it into the eastbound lane of S.R. 56. There, the Camry, driven by Danial M. Shifflett, 53, Lexington, hit an eastbound 2011 Chevy Impala head-on.

The driver of the Impala, Robert A. Dzedzic, 72, Austin, and his passenger, Paul D. Dzedzic, 41, Austin, experienced chest pain following the mishap. They were both transported to Scott Memorial Hospital by Scott County EMS technicians.

Property damage was estimated by Sgt. Rodney Watts at up to \$10,000. He was assisted at the scene by Scottsburg volunteer firemen and First Responders and by Sgt. Brian Hall.