

March doesn't begin well for some drivers; 13 listed injured in seven traffic accidents

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 11 March 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 March 2009 12:37

Of the nine traffic accidents recorded in Scott County for the month of March, seven have involved injuries to 13 people.

The unlucky streak for motorists began on Wednesday, March 4, with a collision at the intersection of State Road 56 and State Road 203 east of Scottsburg shortly after 8 a.m.

Drivers were Brantly V. Tomlin, 19, Jeffersonville, and Donald E. Larson Jr., 28, Scottsburg.

Driver statements taken by Deputy Mark Shapinsky of the Sheriff's Department indicated that Tomlin was making a left turn from S.R. 203 onto westbound S.R. 56. He said he did not see Larson coming east on S.R. 56 in his 2000 Chevy Cavalier. Larson's car hit Tomlin's 1996 Pontiac Bonneville in its left rear side, causing the Cavalier to spin and go off the north side of the highway into a ditch line and overturning.

Sheriff John Lizenby and Chief Deputy Wayne Williams assisted Shapinsky at the scene. Scott County EMS technicians arrived to assist Tomlin, who suffered neck pain, and Larson, who was listed with an injury to an elbow/lower arm.

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

Just before 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, a mishap occurred on S.R. 56 opposite Oak Drive in Scottsburg.

According to Lt. Richey Barton's report, Ashley M. Williams, 18, Austin, was driving a 1997 Cavalier east on S.R. 56 near the entrance to Chase Bank. She reportedly struck the back of a 2001 Hyundai Accent driven by Richard D. Shireman, 47, Austin.

That wasn't the end of the damage, however. Shireman told the officer that Williams "...kept pushing him..." so he pulled off into the bank parking lot. The Cavalier followed him into the lot and traveled on to the bank's main entrance where it struck a pillar and came to rest against the brick-front building. Williams told Lt. Barton that the car's brakes locked up and that she had tried her emergency brake but could not stop its forward movement.

Neither driver was listed as injured, but a passenger in Williams' car, Heather Robinson, 18, Austin, suffered an apparent shoulder/upper arm injury. Scott County EMS personnel were on hand to assist as was Indiana State Trooper T. Baker.

Lt. Barton estimated property damage up to \$10,000.

The next personal injury accident happened just before 1 p.m. on Friday, March 6. This accident was at the intersection of U.S. Highway 31 and Vest Street.

Drivers were Staci J. Arbuckle, 28, Scottsburg, and Amanda L. Barrett, 19, Austin.

Lt. Barton investigated this accident as well. Statements he took related that Arbuckle was turning south on U.S. 31 from Vest Street. She said her view of the highway was obstructed by a van turning onto Vest St. from the right lane. When she pulled out, Barrett's 2001 Dodge Stratus struck her 2004 Ford F250 pickup in the passenger side.

Arbuckle suffered neck pain after the mishap. Barrett had some facial bleeding, while her passenger, Felicia Hensley, 19, Scottsburg, experienced pain in her hip/upper leg. Scott County EMS was on the scene to help them.

Property damage was estimated up to \$10,000 by Lt. Barton. He was assisted at the scene by Sgt. Brian Hall of the Scottsburg department and Deputy/Detective Rick Barrett of the Sheriff's Department.

Later that same day at 4:46 p.m., another injury accident took place, this time at the intersection of S.R. 56 and Park Drive in Scottsburg.

In this mishap, driver Vickie K. Swallows, 52, Scottsburg, said she was in the Chase Bank parking lot when she was "waved out" into traffic by another driver going east on S.R. 56. As she turned west in her 1997 Ford Thunderbird, an eastbound 2000 Hyundai Elantra driven by Brianna

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P. Hill, 16, Scottsburg, struck the T-bird in its driver's side.

Swallows suffered facial contusions and bruises in the accident. Hill and her passenger, Heather Barnes, 16, Scottsburg, were both listed with injuries to their elbows/lower arms.

Technicians with Scott County EMS were on the scene.

Lt. Barton investigated the mishap and listed property damage at \$5,000. He was assisted by Scottsburg's Patrolman Troy Ford and Deputy Rodney Rudder of the Sheriff's Department.

A dog in the road caused motorist Barbara J. Ferguson, 61, Deputy, to crash just before 12 noon on Saturday, March 7. The mishap occurred on Whitsitt Road about 100 feet south of its intersection with Harrod Road.

Ferguson told Deputy Joe Guarneri that she had been driving south on Whitsitt Rd. when she swerved to avoid the animal. Her 2008 Pontiac Grad Am entered a ditch on the east side of the road.

Ferguson experienced pain in her abdomen/pelvis area following the accident. Scott County EMS assisted as did Reserve Deputies Bobby Thompson and Lonnie Combs. Damage was estimated at up to \$2,500.

Two Scottsburg officers. Ptl. Ford and Patrolman Steve Herald, were called to the scene of an early morning motorcycle accident on U.S. 31 South in the city on Sunday, March 8.

In front of the Storage Express on U.S. 31, they found motorcyclist Michael R. Duff, 51, Scottsburg, shortly after 3 a.m. Duff was about 15 feet south of his wrecked bike. Skid marks showed that the bike had traveled over 181 feet from where it first "laid down" on the highway and where it wound up.

Duff could not help the officers with their investigation of the accident's cause. Ptl. Ford noted in his report that Duff was barely conscious and had suffered a head wound which bled heavily.

Damage to the 2008 Suzuki XR1 was estimated at up to \$10,000.

Another accident shortly before 7 p.m. on Sunday resulted in injuries to two people.

This mishap took place on State Road 256 at Whitsitt Road. Driver was Dana J. Mulley, 29, Austin. Mulley told Deputy Joe Johnson that she had been driving west on S.R. 256 when she turned around to give her one-year-old baby, Ana Mulley, a bottle. She said when she turned back around, her 1998 Olds Achieva was "flipping."

The accident caused both to be trapped inside the wreckage of the car. Volunteer firemen freed them.

Mulley and her child were transported to Scott Memorial Hospital by Scott County EMS techs. The woman suffered abrasions to her hip/upper leg. Her youngster was listed with abrasions. Both were using restraints, which protected them.

Deputy Johnson listed property damage at up to \$10,000.