



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff
Gary Simpson
News

For immediate release:
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Sunday, May 10, 2020

One dead in South Kitsap hit and run

SOUTH KITSAP, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's traffic deputies are investigating a fatal vehicle - bicycle collision that occurred Saturday afternoon in South Kitsap.

Location: 8800 block of Bethel Burley Road SE, near the intersection with SE Mullenix Road.

Time & date: reported at 2:57 p.m., Saturday, May 9.

Responding agencies:

Law enforcement: patrol deputies and traffic investigators from Kitsap County Sheriff's Office.

Fire: Engine and medic units from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue (SKFR).

Involved:

Unit #1: 2003 Oldsmobile Alero.

Driver: male, age 40, from Port Orchard. No injuries reported.

Unit #2: BMC road bicycle

Bicyclist: adult male declared deceased at the scene by SKFR medics. The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has identified the bicyclist as Thomas Frederick Johnson, 56, from Tacoma.

No other persons or vehicles were involved.

Synopsis:

Although the investigation is in its early stages, the preliminary investigation shows that Mr. Johnson was struck by a motor vehicle while riding his BMC road bike southbound on Bethel Burley Road. The scene investigation indicates that the bicyclist had been on the shoulder of the roadway when the vehicle, also traveling southbound, left the lane of travel and struck him.

The vehicle was later identified as a 2003 Oldsmobile Alero.

After the collision the driver of the Oldsmobile didn't stop but continued traveling approximately one mile south until he pulled over and stopped in the 10100 block of Bethel Burley Road. He was observed by witnesses trying to remove the bicycle from the Oldsmobile's front end.

A sheriff's patrol deputy arrived within minutes and contacted the Oldsmobile's driver then detained him for further investigation. The driver stated that he thought that he had struck a mailbox further up the road.

This driver, a 40-year-old Port Orchard man, was investigated for driving while under the influence of narcotics. He was subsequently arrested. A sample of the driver's blood was obtained under authority of a search warrant. The sample will be sent to the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory for analysis.



Kitsap County Sheriff's patrol vehicles at the scene of a fatal vehicle – bicycle collision during the afternoon of May 9 in South Kitsap.

A portion of the 10100 block of Bethel Burley Road SE was closed to thru traffic for approximately three hours while the

The driver was booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of vehicular homicide (DUI); hit and run with injury or death to another and driving while license suspended. Bail was set initially at \$250,000.

Although sheriff's deputies spoke with several drivers who came upon the scene after the collision, traffic investigators wish to speak with anyone who may have witnessed this collision or who may have additional information. Please contact:

Deputy Rob Corn, sheriff's traffic unit, at 360-337-4634, or via e-mail at: rcorn@co.kitsap.wa.us .

Reference: case report K20-003910.

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