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Media Release

NHP Trooper Narrowly Misses Being Struck by Suspected Drug Impaired Driver

On Thursday, January 5, 2012 at approximately 5:00 pm, a trooper with the Nevada Highway Patrol was investigating a single-vehicle rollover crash on the south bound off ramp from US 395 to Clearacre Lane in Reno. The tow truck was recovering the involved vehicle while the trooper was taking measurements of the crash scene area. At about that time a motorist traveling down the ramp in a green Isuzu Rodeo slowed his vehicle down to less than 10 miles per hour as he was approaching the trooper.

A second vehicle was also exiting the freeway and was approaching the crash scene, a blue 1987 Chrysler 5th Avenue sedan, driven by 41-year-old Jolie R. Hoyt of Herlong, California. Ms. Hoyt failed to reduce her speed and struck the rear of the green SUV. The trooper saw the Chrysler approaching the SUV without slowing down and he darted to the side of the road seconds before the collision. The driver of the SUV, William A. Barco-Donis, 25 of Reno, sustained minor injuries and was not transported from the scene.

As for Ms. Hoyt, she was wearing a seat belt and escaped injury while her unrestrained passenger, 48-year-old Robert F. Price Jr. of Herlong, sustained a minor head injury. Ms. Hoyt displayed signs of drug impairment and she also submitted to presumptive drug test which produced positive results for Methamphetamine and Amphetamines. She was placed under arrest for DUI drugs and for failing to use due care; both misdemeanors, as well as being under the influence of a controlled substance; a felony. She was booked into the Washoe County Detention Facility with a total bail of 1,895 dollars.

Meanwhile, Mr. Price Jr. was arrested at the scene and charged with possessing 113 grams of marijuana, or approximately 4 ounces, in four separate 1 ounce quantities for sales and for not wearing a seat belt. His total bail was 2,487 dollars. Both subjects are still in custody at the jail this afternoon.

As a traffic law reminder, whenever a motorist approaches a stopped emergency vehicle with its emergency lights flashing, the law states that you must reduce your vehicle's speed and when it's safe to do so move one lane on a multiple-lane roadway.

The booking photos are attached as well as a picture of the involved vehicles.



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