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Media Release

Troopers Investigating Two Separate Alcohol-Related Head-on Collisions

Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol are continuing to investigate two separate head-on crashes that took place this weekend; one involving a wrong-way driver on Interstate 80 in Reno.

On Saturday, March 3, 2012 at approximately 2:00 am, our agency began receiving phone calls concerning a wrong-way driver on Interstate 80 near the Virginia Street interchange. The vehicle was described as a white sedan traveling eastbound in the westbound travel lanes. A trooper on duty near the Rock Blvd interchange in Sparks began to intercept and look for the errant vehicle. As he was approaching the underpass of US395 at the *spaghetti bow*, the trooper observed the vehicle strike a commercial motor vehicle comprised of a truck-tractor pulling two trailers head-on loaded with general freight. The front of the car struck the left front and left side of the big rig. The driver of the truck was not injured while the errant driver, identified as 24-year-old Rachel S. Gordon of Reno, sustained a lower extremity injury and was transported to Renown Regional Medical Center.

Ms. Gordon admitted to taking prescription medication to troopers at the scene and an odor of alcohol was detected while she was being extricated from her vehicle by Reno Fire Department personnel. A hospital hold was placed on her while she was receiving treatment at Renown. At 9:40 am later that same morning, she was released from the hospital and taken to the Washoe County Detention Facility to be booked for DUI and causing an accident as well as driving the wrong way on a divided highway. While going through the booking process at the jail, deputies located prescription medication in a chewing gum container located in her purse and her booking charges were amended. The charge of possession of dangerous drugs without a prescription, a felony, was added and her total bail was listed at \$7,500 dollars. She posted bail and was released later that day.

On Sunday, March 2, 2012 at approximately 6:39 pm, troopers were dispatched to a head-on collision on State Rote 341, Geiger Grade, approximately 2 miles north of Virginia City. The crash involved a white 1999 Ford Ranger pick-up driven by John J. McKeown, 31, of Virginia City and a white 2000 Ford Focus driven by 35-year-old Hollie L. Alldredge of Dayton. Hollie had her husband Cleve and their two daughters Jolie, 11, and Sydney, 16, riding in the vehicle too. Mr. McKeown, who was traveling northbound on the two-lane highway, allowed his vehicle to travel into the opposing lane where it struck the Alldredge vehicle head-on. The vehicles came to rest on their wheels blocking at least one travel lane. All four family members were transported by ground ambulance to Reno with various injuries with Sydney having substantial injuries. None of the injuries are life-threatening. McKeown only had minor injuries and he submitted to and failed a series of field sobriety tests at the crash scene.

He was placed under arrest and taken to the Storey County jail and booked on felony DUI causing substantial bodily injury and failure to maintain a travel lane. His total bail was listed at \$30,097 dollars and he is still in custody this morning.



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