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North Kitsap fatality collision

Poulsbo, Wash. -- A 34 year-old woman was declared deceased at the scene of a two vehicle collision, early Monday evening, outside the city limits of Poulsbo. The driver of the other vehicle is now facing a charge of vehicular homicide.

The victim, Jessica Z. Torres, of South Kitsap, was driving a 2000 Mazda Protege in the 22600 block of Clear Creek Road NW, when her vehicle struck a 2001 Volkswagen Passat that crossed the centerline into her lane of travel.

The driver of the Volkswagen, Stephen T. Harvey, age 32, of North Kitsap, was transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, for treatment of minor injuries.

Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, along with engine and medic units from Poulsbo Fire Department, responded to the collision around 5:40 p.m.

There were no other occupants in either vehicle.

Although the investigation into the collision is in its early stages, a preliminary analysis by sheriff's traffic deputies indicates that the Volkswagen Passat was traveling northbound on Clear Creek Road at a high rate of speed. The Passat crossed the centerline into the opposite lane of travel and began to rotate counterclockwise when it was struck by the Mazda Protege heading southbound.

Both vehicles went off the southbound shoulder of the roadway with the Protege ending up in a drainage ditch while the Passat struck two trees before stopping.

Traffic investigators believe that excessive vehicle speed of the Volkswagen Passat, coupled with the ingestion of alcoholic intoxicants and narcotics by its driver, were primary contributing causes of the crash.

Following his release from Harrison Medical Center, Harvey was arrested and booked into the Kitsap County Jail on suspicion of vehicular homicide. Bail was set initially at \$100,000. Harvey made a preliminary appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. He was remanded back into custody on the vehicular homicide charge with bail remaining at \$100,000. His arraignment is scheduled for later this week.

The investigation continues. Persons who witnessed the collision, or who have information about the crash, are asked to contact Deputy Dave Fortenbacher, sheriff's traffic unit, at (360) 337-4634.

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