

FRIDAY, December 24, 1999

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Denison woman killed in two-vehicle accident

HARLAN -- A 45-year-old Denison woman was killed in a two-vehicle accident on Highway 59 north of here at approximately 3 p.m. Monday afternoon, Dec. 20.

Marie Medrano was pronounced dead at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha following the accident, the Shelby County Sheriff's Department reported.

Medrano was a passenger in a 1993 Ford Festiva driven by Jose B. Moreno, 27, Denison.

According to sheriff reports, the Moreno vehicle was southbound on Highway 59. A second vehicle, a 1990 Dodge minivan driven by Melanie M. Laubscher, 44, Vail, was northbound on Highway 59. Investigating officers determined that the Laubscher vehicle veered out of control and crossed the center line, striking the Moreno vehicle head on, about one mile north of Harlan.

Three others were injured in the accident. Jose Moreno, Laubscher, and a passenger in the Laubscher vehicle, Ashley V. Laubscher, 16, Vail, sustained

serious injuries.

All four victims were transported to Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Harlan, and then to St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha for treatment. Marie Medrano died Monday evening as a result of her injuries.

The other three victims are in serious and critical condition with major, multiple injuries.

The Iowa State Patrol and Harlan Police Department assisted the sheriff's office in the investigation. Medivac Ambulance/Rescue and Earling Rescue assisted at the scene in the transportation of the victims to Harlan.

Damage to the Laubscher vehicle was estimated at \$3,000 while the Moreno vehicle sustained an estimated \$2,000 damage.

An uninvolved semi-truck narrowly missed being a part of the accident, skidding to a halt behind the two vehicles and blocking the roadway with its trailer. Traffic was re-routed from the scene while officers investigated the accident and cleaned up the scene.