

Teen killed in one-car accident in county

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DESOTO COUNTY — For the second time in recent days, a one-car crash in rural DeSoto County claimed the life of a teen Sunday.

DeSoto County Coroner Jeff Pounders said Jessica Gresham, 18, was likely killed instantly when the compact car in which she was riding rolled several times along Red Banks Road just south of Lee Road shortly before 3 p.m. Sunday.

The DeSoto Central High School senior was ejected from the car's back seat, according to Sheriff Bill Rasco.

He said the car's driver, an 18-year-old male student at Lewisburg High School, and another female passenger, 18, also were injured.

The driver was airlifted to The Regional Medical Center in Memphis, where he reportedly remained in criti-

cal but stable condition on Monday.

The condition of the female passenger, who was transported by ambulance to the Memphis hospital, could not be confirmed Monday.

Rasco said investigators are currently working to reconstruct Sunday's crash in hopes of determining a cause.

The same is true in the case of another one-car crash Friday near the intersection of Star Landing and Baldwin roads that killed 17-year-old Lake Cormorant High School student Sandi Mayfield, he said.

Three of Mayfield's siblings also were injured when the truck in which they were riding left the roadway and hit a tree.

Katherine Nelson, spokesperson for the DeSoto County School District, said counselors were made available to students at Gresham's and Mayfield's schools in the wake of the fatal crashes.

DeSoto Central High School teacher Elaine Tentoni said on Monday that Gresham was involved in the school's vocational nursing program.

Gresham also explored acting, performing in the DeSoto Family Theatre's presentation of "A Christmas Carol" two years ago, and made a mark in her church.

"Jessica was actively involved with Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Olive Branch as a leader in the youth group, taught religious education on Sunday morning to pre-schoolers, was a scripture reader in church and helped assist the adult leaders preparing students for confirmation," said Hank Babin, deacon at Queen of Peace and counselor for DeSoto County Schools. "Everyone loved her."

A fund for Gresham's family has been established at BancorpSouth Bank. Donations can be made any of the bank's branches.