

## Wheatland-Chili teacher dies in hit-and-run crash

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A Wheatland-Chili teacher died after she was struck by a car while crossing Elmwood Avenue near the University of Rochester campus Thursday morning.

Jill Skivington Jackett, 38, was struck during a hit-and-run on Elmwood Avenue near Wilson Boulevard.

She suffered life-threatening injuries and was taken to Strong Memorial Hospital, where she died, said Rochester Police Investigator Jackie Shuman.

“It is with extreme sadness to inform the community that beloved Wheatland-Chili High School teacher and coach Jill Skivington Jackett was killed this morning while on an early morning jog,” according to a Scottsville village Facebook post. “Please keep the Skivington/Jackett family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.”

Skivington Jackett was an English teacher at Wheatland-Chili and a past winner of the Rochester Marathon.

Just before 6 a.m., Rochester police were called to the scene after it was reported that an eastbound vehicle struck a pedestrian on Elmwood Avenue, according to a statement from Rochester Police Capt. Jeff Koehn.

After the collision, the vehicle continued east without stopping, he said. Police said the vehicle was a black, late-model sedan.

Elmwood Avenue between Genesee Street and Kendrick Road had been closed for the investigation and was reopened about 12:30 p.m.

Eric Eagan, president of TrailsROC, knew Skivington Jackett through the running community.

“There’s probably not a better spirit that you can see when somebody is running than Jill,” Eagan said. “She was just full of joy. When she would see you, she would smile, like a genuine smile.”

Eagan said Skivington Jackett always wanted to hear about other runners and their progress, even after she had just won a race.

he had to walk away from the show floor to collect his thoughts.

“I’m surrounded by a lot of friends and the entire running industry,” he said, “and then I hear a close friend was killed while running today, it’s just really hard to swallow. It’s just really difficult to process right now.”

Skivington Jackett always had a huge smile on her face after races, Nace said. But that smile couldn’t hide her determination and drive.

“She was so talented,” Nace said. “She was a fast lady. You could count on her to always race hard, but smile at the same time. She just had great energy. She always had a big smile on her face after a race. She was such a tough competitor.”

Nace said Skivington Jackett “was feisty in a fun way. She competed in races I organized and she would give me the business. She was just a good spirit.”

Nace said that running creates a true community and that Skivington Jackett was part of that fabric. “The main reason why I do what I do with Medved is the community that we’re a piece of. She’s a special person.”

Officers continue to investigate the crash.

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**Jill Skivington of Rochester was the first woman to cross the finish line during the Rochester Marathon**

“The next minute, she would be like, ‘How are you doing?’ She wouldn’t even want to talk about her own accolades,” he said. “She was interested in other people and all that other stuff.”

Mort Nace, the general manager of Medved Running and Walking Outfitters, competed with Skivington Jackett and organized races she ran in. Skivington Jackett ran with the Medved winter racing team.

He said he found out about her death this afternoon while at a running trade show in Texas. Nace said

**on Sunday, September 14, 2008. FILE PHOTO/2008**