

Central Curry bus driver killed by Crescent City man in DUI crash

May 17, 2021



A bus driver with the Central Curry School District was killed by a Crescent City man in a two-vehicle crash in the early morning Thursday, May 13 in Mendocino County.

Longtime bus driver with Central Curry, 68 year-old Wayne Berry, was traveling southbound on his motorcycle along Highway 101 near Garberville when an oncoming Pontiac Grand Prix operated by 30 year-old Michael Confer of Crescent City crossed over into the wrong lane and struck Berry's motorcycle head-on just before 3 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol incident report.

As a result of the crash, Berry was ejected from his motorcycle and traveled over the side of the elevated bypass. Berry succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The force of the impact caused Confer's Pontiac to catch fire.

Confer was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence of a controlled substance. He was booked into the Mendocino County jail on a felony DUI charge and vehicular manslaughter. The incident is being investigated further by the CHP.

Central Curry School District mourned the loss of Berry in a May 16 press release, "Wayne had been a District employee for several years, most recently assigned as the Agness route bus driver and athletic trip driver. Wayne will be remembered for his care for all students and staff with a special heart for the underdog."

Additionally, the CCSD release stated the school crisis team will be available at both campuses Monday to assist grieving staff and students.