

8-vehicle pileup kills 3 near Bovina

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Staff

*Dense fog blamed in pre-dawn **wreck** that included four 18-wheelers

By Lorinda Bullock

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Two Hinds Community College baseball players returning from a trip to Vicksburg were among three people killed in an early Friday morning multi-vehicle accident on I-20 near Bovina.

Teammates James Andrew Carlisle, 20, of McKinney, Texas, Marcus Ryan Basye, 20, of Terry and Owen Williams, 19, of Clinton were on their way home when Carlisle's Pontiac Grand Am became part of the eight-vehicle accident that included four 18-wheelers.

Carlisle and Basye were killed instantly, Warren County Coroner John Thomason said. So was 54-year-old Christine Jones of Jackson, who was in a Ford Explorer, Thomason said.

Williams and four others were injured in the pre-dawn **wreck** in dense fog that set off a chain reaction.

Traffic snarled for more than nine hours on I-20 between Jackson and Vicksburg.

"It was a mess, a bad mess," said state Trooper Rusty Clark, who responded to the scene at 2:10 a.m. Because of the weather, traffic had come to a stop when the accident occurred, Clark said. As one 18-wheeler stopped, another rear-ended it and other vehicles continued to crash, mangling the trucks and **cars** and jolting one **car** into a ditch on the right shoulder.

Jones' Ford Explorer ended up underneath one of the 18-wheelers, Thomason said. "They had to use the Jaws of Life for she (Christine Jones) and Mr. Carlisle. Mr. Basye, I lifted him out of the **car** myself," Thomason said.

Williams was treated for injuries and released from the River Region Medical Center in Vicksburg later that day, said Diane Gawronski, a hospital spokeswoman.

Four other people were taken to River Region for treatment: Ralph Wallis, 63, of Mansfield, Ohio, Richard Burrell, 51, of Edwards, and Luther Gregg, 55, and Amanda Jones, 26, both of Jackson. Christine Jones and Amanda Jones are not related.

Basye's father, David Basye, said his son had been attending Hinds on an athletic scholarship for the last two years and was a pitcher.

"He didn't have any other hobbies except (baseball)," he said Friday afternoon, choking back tears. Kim Chandler said her cousin, Basye, was a "comical" person who loved to make people laugh and "loved baseball."

Burrell was traveling with Christine Jones.

He was transferred from River Region to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson where he is in good condition, said Jenny Woodruff, a UMC spokeswoman.

River Region Director of Marketing Diane Gawronski said Williams, Gregg and Wallis were treated and released Friday. Gawronski said Amanda Jones could have been treated and released, but she had no documentation for her.

Traffic finally returned to normal at 11:30 a.m. when the smashed, skeletonlike trailer of the last 18-wheeler truck was pulled away.

Clark said the accident occurred during a peak time for tractor-trailer travel. Coupled with the dense fog, he said drivers need to be even more cautious.

PHOTO CAPTION

Eastbound I-20 traffic in Warren County, nine miles east of Vicksburg near Bovina, inches along for

the scene of a deadly 2 a.m. accident is cleared from the interstate Friday morning.

Vickie D. King/The Clarion-Ledger

MAP NOT AVAILABLE

Wilfred McNeil/The Clarion-Ledger