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Friends of Realtor see hope after his surgery

Pruett's official condition still 'critical' after motorcycle accident, hospital says.

By Emma Breyse

Real estate broker Michael Pruett's official condition remained unchanged after a 10-hour surgery Monday night.

A crew flew Pruett to the Salt Lake City hospital with head and neck injuries following a motorcycle accident late Sunday night in Jackson.

Tuesday night, Pruett's condition was still "critical," University of Utah Hospital spokeswoman Marissa Villaseñor said.

"There are no updates on his condition at this time," she said. "We would still classify him as being in critical condition."

Friends monitoring his care, however, said there is reason to hope that could soon change.

Pruett underwent surgery to repair his back Monday, friend and Realtor Barbara Allen said. Surgeons intended to fuse and repair portions of his spine. Late Tuesday morning, the procedure appeared successful.

"It's been good news, and I believe the phrase 'about as good as we can ask for' was used," Allen said. "The updates have all been positive."

The wreck left Pruett, who works with Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates, with a fractured neck, but as of Allen's last update, his spinal cord

function was normal.

Matt Deehan, who drove to Utah to be with Pruett and his family, reported the same.

Deehan posted periodic updates on his friend's condition on Facebook, all of which were messages of relief and optimism.

"Smiling neurosurgeons, smiling wife, family and friends," he said following Pruett's surgery. "All went well."



Pruett

Deehan remained at Pruett's bedside Tuesday night.

Pruett is a six-year veteran of the town of Jackson planning commission and ran unsuccessfully for a Town Council seat.

The wreck occurred when a car turned in front of him at the intersection of Millward Street and Hansen Avenue, failing to yield the right of way, according to police.

He was unresponsive and bleeding from the head at the scene, but Allen said doctors are not concerned about any head injuries.

As of Tuesday, Teton County prosecutors had yet to make a decision on whether to charge the car's driver, a Moran resident.

Police tested the driver for intoxication and do not believe alcohol was a factor in the crash.

It is still unknown whether Pruett was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, police said.

Town race down to eight as Miles pulls his name

Crowded town council race loses one candidate, leaves one incumbent in the fray.

By Benjamin Graham

The crowded race for Jackson Town Council opened slightly Monday night when Greg Miles announced he would not seek re-election.

Miles, who was the top vote-getter when he won his seat in 2008, was one of two incumbents facing off against seven challengers for the two open seats on town council.

After filing to run again in May, Miles pulled out of the race just a month before primary elections take place Aug. 21.

Miles said he withdrew because he wants to spend more time in Los Angeles with his wife, who is producing a television show there.

He also said he is excited to refocus on his profession. Miles has spent much of his time in the valley building houses and other developments.

"My development experience got me into town politics," Miles said. "I'm looking forward to getting back into that game."

He will complete his term in office, which ends in January, and plans to begin working on several projects around Jackson in the spring.

Despite his shifting life and career goals, Miles did not rule out the prospect of re-entering politics later in life. "You never know," he said. "I'll always leave that door open."

One of the lessons Miles will take

with him from his time in office is the value of compromise.

"We have a very involved community," Miles said. "Compromise is really how we move forward as a community."

He said he has enjoyed working with the Town Council, town staff and the public.

"I came into this thing so headstrong," Miles said of his time serving the public, going all the way back to his six-year stint on the town planning commission.



Miles

"But I've learned a lot, and I've calmed down a lot. You have to learn to work with people."

Throughout his time in office, Miles supported pathways projects, affordable housing and complete streets, such as Redmond Street.

Several of his initiatives, including a movement to ban plastic bags from grocery stores in town, never gained traction, but Miles said he is grateful for the chance he has had to serve.

Without Miles, incumbent Mark Obringer, who is seeking his fifth term in office, and Steve Harrington are the only town veterans left in the race. Harrington served on the council from 2002 to 2006 before losing his seat in the general election. Candidate Jim Genzer served on the school board.

Political newcomers Phillip Cameron, Emy diGrappa, Kelly Egan, Hailley Morton and Jim Stanford also are challenging for seats.

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