

Butte woman, 90, killed when car rolls down slope on West Side street

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A 90-year-old Butte woman was killed Thursday evening when her car began moving as she was preparing to unload her groceries.

The woman had stopped her 2003 Subaru Forester facing uphill on the 400 block of South Emmett Avenue, gotten out, and opened the passenger-side door when the car began rolling. She was pinned between the door and a utility pole, suffering head and chest injuries.

Police responded within one minute of receiving a call at 6:24 p.m. Along with fire department personnel, they managed to free the woman, who was sent to St. James Healthcare by ambulance. She died shortly thereafter.

Police are withholding the woman's name pending notification of her family.

The car was still in drive and the parking brake was not set, Sheriff Ed Lester said Friday.

"It's just a tragic accident," Lester said. "Because of our hills and slopes, we get several cars every year that roll away."