

The Daily Courier

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Jury awards Prescott woman \$650,000

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PRESCOTT - A Yavapai County jury Tuesday awarded \$650,000 to a 77-year-old Prescott woman struck by a sports utility vehicle while crossing the street.

The SUV, driven by Natalie Orlando of Chino Valley, hit Sally Hargrove, then 74, while she was in the crosswalk at Whipple and Division streets, said Christopher Jenson, Hargrove's lawyer.

Hargrove was walking to the YMCA to go to her water aerobics class on Jan. 10, 2008, when the accident occurred as Orlando made a left turn.

After several surgeries, including a hip replacement, "She's getting along as well as can be expected," Jenson said, of his client.

While Jenson asked the jury for \$714,000, defense lawyer Ryan Lamb suggested \$110,000, saying that Hargrove was 50 percent at fault. The defense argued that Hargrove crossed after the light had changed and that some of her medical problems were caused by pre-existing arthritis.

The 10-person jury deliberated for about two hours after a five-day trial before Superior Court Judge David L. Mackey.

Lamb said he has no plans to appeal the verdict.

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