

## Montezuma man killed in two-car crash on Highway 63

A two-car crash south of New Sharon on Highway 63 took the life of a Montezuma man on Friday, Jan. 31.

According to an accident report from the Iowa State Patrol, Kent James McIlrath, 61, of Montezuma, was pronounced dead at the scene.

McIlrath was driving northbound in a 2002 Chevrolet Impala and was struck head on by a vehicle driven by Danith Rashel Van Fleet, 28, of New Sharon, when

Van Fleet's southbound Honda van crossed the center line.

Reports show that Van Fleet's vehicle was facing northbound in the southbound lane; McIlrath's car was facing east in the ditch.

Van Fleet was transported to the hospital by Mahaska County Ambulance. The report shows he was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.

The accident remains under investigation.

**Kent James McIlrath, 61, of Montezuma passed away Jan. 31.**

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**Kent McIlrath**  
**Mar. 31, 1959 - Feb. 7, 2020**

Kent McIlrath, 60 of Montezuma passed away Friday afternoon, Jan. 31, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Memorial services were Friday, Feb. 7, at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in the family's name to be determined later.

Kent McIlrath, son of James and Harriett Pahre McIlrath was born on Mar. 31, 1959 at St. Francis Hospital in Grinnell. Kent grew up in Montezuma and attended and graduated from Montezuma High School in 1977. He was married to Kristy Clark on Aug. 5, 1977 and to this union two children were born, Nikki and Travis. He worked for Vermeer Manufacturing in Pella for over 23 years before moving to Indianapolis where he installed floor covering and counter-tops. He moved back to Montezuma in 2003. On June 6, 2006, Kent was united in marriage to Ginger Van Hoever. He held several jobs including working at S&S Siding, Minner Construction and most recently at Cablevey in Oskaloosa. Kent was a collector and enjoyed garage sales and liked a good bargain. He enjoyed his Harley, dogs, the Iowa Hawkeyes, sports and especially the Oakland Raiders, and most of all loved spending time with family and especially his grandchildren.

Kent's memory will be honored by his wife, Ginger, of Montezuma; his children, Nikki (Eric) Ribble of Iowa City, Travis (TJ) McIlrath of Norman, OK., Holly Reed of Montezuma, Jeb Brown, of Tacoma, WA., Bristen (Chad) Geimer of Montezuma, and Mad-die Brown of Clear Lake.; his grandchildren, Mackenzie Ribble, Makayla Ribble, Myla McIlrath, Stevie (Damian Benson) Reed, Willow Young and Westen Young; one great grandchild, Shayde Mabel Benson; sisters, Sue Shoup of Grinnell, and Cindy (Allen) Millard of Agency; his nephew Colton (Kelsie) Millard and niece Callie Millard; great nephew Cooper Millard; his mother-in-law Maxine Van Hoever and many other friends and family.

*Record*  
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