

Diner struck by car on outdoor patio in Parole still in critical condition

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A woman remains in critical condition after being struck by a car that jumped a curb and plowed through a restaurant patio in Parole at lunchtime on Monday.

Officials at the Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore confirmed Wednesday morning that Selina Singo, 20, of Odenton, is still recovering from her injuries.

The driver of the black Lexus that jumped the curb is retired Johns Hopkins University economist Arnold Packer, 78, who once served in the Labor Department in the 1970s under President Jimmy Carter. Police named Packer as the driver on Monday.

He said he was still very shaken from the incident this morning.

Packer did not know about Singo's condition this morning. Upon learning she was in critical condition, he expressed dismay.

"I am terribly, terribly sorry," he said. "I don't think I should say anymore. I am just terribly sorry."

He was treated and released from Anne Arundel Medical Center Monday.

A day after the freak accident, business had returned to near normal at Zoës Kitchen at the Annapolis Towne Centre.

Outdoor tables were set up Tuesday evening at the eatery but were empty due to the rain that swept through the area. Inside take-out orders were stacked on a table.

Employees at Zoës, who were visibly shaken at the scene of the 1:30 p.m. accident, would not comment and referred inquiries to the company's corporate spokeswoman, Rachel Phillips.

Singo was struck while dining near a wall at one corner of the patio.

The car was attempting to park at a spot about 12 feet from the front of the restaurant, police said.

Once the car jumped the curb, it was only a few feet from the building. Tire tracks and the position of the front wheels when the

vehicle came to a stop indicate that Packer swerved, likely to avoid the building. But that sent the car directly toward outdoor tables where several customers were dining.

A bystander said Singo was dining with another woman who was uninjured, as she managed to get over the wall and out of the way of the Lexus. Singo ended up between the car and the wall. Paramedics treated her there before taking her to shock trauma.

Bits of salad and dinner ware were scattered around tables, chairs and umbrellas lying askew around the car.

Emergency personnel also briefly examined a handful of other diners, though none were injured. Police said two men, ages 54 and 45, and a 30-year-old woman were also struck by the car.

That woman, who did not want to be identified, had a ice pack on her elbow at the accident scene. She said she and three others were at another table outside when the car came careening at them. They were able to get out of the way, but the woman in the corner — Singo — did not.