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## POLICE: WRONG-WAY DRIVER APPEARED DRUNK

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Article Text:

DWI officer at hospital reported "strong odor of alcohol" coming from Cadavas

Driver: Officers refuse to call their pursuit of wrong-way driver a 'chase'

The 43-year-old driver who killed a local woman in a head-on crash Tuesday on Cerrillos Road displayed signs of alcohol intoxication while he was being treated at St. Vincent Regional Medical Center.

That's according to the observations of Santa Fe police Officer Doug Kies, a drunken-driving prevention officer, who attempted to interview Anthony Cadavas on Tuesday night after Cadavas plowed into Barbara Kendall, 56. But while Cadavas' injuries made it impossible to talk to him, he had "red, watery eyes and a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person," said Sgt. Aric Wheeler, a city police spokesman.

Meanwhile, Kendall's supervisor at Professional Health Care in Santa Fe described the care-giver as a kind woman with a "great sense of humor" who liked to gamble at area casinos and had recently bought the Acura she was driving when she was hit.

"She was like your typical hippie-type person," said Mary Alice Chavez. "You could tell she was like a '60s woman. She was real wholesome."

Kendall had only worked for Professional Health Care since October and had brought four clients with her when she started, Chavez said. She had been taking care of the clients for four or five years, she said.

"Her clients loved her dearly," Chavez said. "Some of her clients are having a hard time dealing with (her death). They're very upset."

One client in particular -- a female veteran -- was close to Kendall, Chavez said, and used to have a hard time even when Kendall took a few days off. Both women had keen senses of humor and "got along great," she said. That woman was having particular difficulty accepting Kendall's death, she said.

"She was wonderful," Chavez said. "She'll be greatly missed."

Kendall's 28-year-old daughter was in the car with her when Cadavas hit them. The daughter is out of the hospital but has declined to talk to the media.

On Wednesday, Cadavas was transported to Denver Health Medical Center where he was listed in critical condition Thursday, according to a hospital spokeswoman. Wheeler said Cadavas' injuries appeared life-threatening Wednesday morning, though he'd been stabilized enough by the afternoon to be moved to Denver. Wheeler cited federal privacy laws and said he couldn't release specifics on Cadavas' injuries.

A source who requested anonymity said Cadavas' legs and pelvis were crushed in the crash, and his femoral arteries were severed. Cadavas nearly bled to death, the source said.

Witnesses said Cadavas repeatedly made U-turns in rush-hour traffic Tuesday and had been

driving fast and erratically prior to hitting Kendall. Several bloggers on the New Mexican's Web site on Wednesday wondered what role city police played in chasing down Cadavas.

Police officials -- including Capt. Gary Johnson, who witnessed part of the incident -- refused to call the pursuit a "chase." Johnson said Detective Tony Trujillo was on his way to the National Night Out on the Plaza when he saw Cadavas' car peel out of Walgreens, 3298 Cerrillos Road. Trujillo didn't pursue him at the time, thinking the man was only a show-off-type driver, Johnson said. However, moments later Trujillo looked in his rearview mirror and saw the same car driving erratically and coming up behind him, he said. Trujillo then realized the man was dangerous, called dispatch for a patrol officer to come deal with the situation and followed him down the street in an effort to protect the public, Johnson said.

"This wasn't a typical reckless driver," he said. "He was driving like he was being chased before any police officer ever saw him."

Johnson was nearby when Trujillo called for backup and said Cadavas came straight toward him on Cerrillos and nearly ran into Johnson's unmarked Ford Crown Victoria at one point. Johnson said he tried to cut off Cadavas, but Cadavas was able to drive around him.

"This was not a chase," he said, adding the incident occurred quickly. "We didn't even know where he was part of the time."

Geary Johns, a vacationing Tulsa, Okla., police officer who saw Cadavas on Cerrillos just before the crash, said in an e-mail message that Cadavas was driving at a high rate of speed. Johns said Cadavas would make a U-turn, which cut off oncoming traffic, then repeat the same process over again.

"In my professional opinion, Anthony Cadavas was going to be in a bad traffic collision long before the Santa Fe Police Department began their pursuit," Johns wrote. "His reckless operation of the Toyota was severe enough that it would have been inevitable. The police did everything they could to prevent this tragedy from occurring."

Jimmy Scott, who witnessed the crash at the intersection of Vegas Verdes and Cerrillos, said he saw an unmarked police car with sirens and red lights flashing pursuing Cadavas' car. He said he thought that likely meant police were pursuing someone who'd committed a burglary or robbery of some kind.

Santa Fe Police Department commanders monitor any police chase and call it off if they believe it has become too dangerous, said Police Chief Eric Johnson.

"This guy was driving so erratically so he (Trujillo) couldn't chase him even if he'd wanted to," Eric Johnson said. "He kept changing directions."

Santa Fe police arrested Cadavas on July 13 on domestic-violence charges. Also, online court records indicate he was charged with driving while intoxicated, speeding and having no insurance in Albuquerque in May 2005. Records indicate he pleaded guilty to the speeding charge in that case, and the other two charges were dropped.

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Caption:

1. Anthony Cadavas

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