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Man dies during high-speed chase

Tanner offers reward

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Article Text:

GALLUP - A 32-year-old Gallup man was killed early Friday morning when his vehicle crashed into a backhoe that was parked near the intersection of Eighth and Green Streets.

Manuel Arellanes was pronounced dead at the scene and was reportedly involved in a high-speed chase with state police officers before the fatal impact at about 1:45 a.m.

Lt. Jimmy Glascock, a spokesman for the state police, said the incident occurred when a state police officer was attempting to stop Arellanes, who was driving a 1989 Chevrolet four-door, for a traffic violation.

When the officer tried to stop Arellanes, he allegedly swerved into the opposite lane and sped up. Arellanes turned the vehicle in a southerly direction at a high rate of speed and crashed into a backhoe that was parked in the right lane, according to Glascock.

Arellanes was not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol may have contributed to the crash. The agency is investigating the incident. No additional serious injuries were reported.

Tanner offers reward

The Ellis Tanner Trading Company's owner is offering a reward of \$5,000 to the person who provides information that leads to the arrest of the man who robbed the trading post on April 14 at about 9:20 a.m.

The young Native American man took an undisclosed amount of money from the business and drove from the parking lot in a red Ford Escape. Crimestoppers is also offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for the suspect's arrest. Anyone with information is asked to call the organization at 722-6161.

Drug raids net four

Agents involved in the local narcotics task force arrested four Gallup residents in recent weeks on charges of distribution of a controlled substance.

Christopher Lee, 19; Theodore Watchman, 27; Ernest Clah, 19, and an unnamed 15-year-old were booked into local jails after police raided an undisclosed location.

Erin Toadlena-Pablo, a spokeswoman for the Gallup Police Department, said the agency would not release the raid's location or the type of drugs that were confiscated because of the ongoing investigation.

Woman arrested for cocaine possession

In a separate incident, local police arrested a Gallup woman after police discovered 30.5 grams of cocaine inside her vehicle.

Alvina Nez was pulled over on Interstate 40 near Gallup during a routine traffic stop when the illegal substance was discovered inside her vehicle.

Nez was booked into jail for driving on a suspended or revoked license and for the traffic violation. Felony drug charges are pending, Toadlena-Pablo said.

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