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Police chase ends in crash; El Dorado man, 40, dies

Author: ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Article Text:

An El Dorado man who died Monday when he drove off the road and hit a tree in Calhoun County was in a scuffle and car chase with a sheriff's deputy minutes before the fatal crash, Calhoun County Sheriff Bob Dunn said Wednesday.

Vincent Holden, 40, was driving a Mercury east on Calhoun County Road 72 when he failed to negotiate a curve about 10:30 a.m. Monday, police said. Holden was stopped minutes before for speeding on U.S. 167 near Thornton by Calhoun County sheriff's Deputy Terry Clark, Dunn said. Holden fought Clark, who reported finding cocaine and crystal methamphetamine in Holden's car. When Clark tried to handcuff Holden, the man shoved the deputy, Dunn said.

Clark reached for his weapon when Holden got into the Mercury and reached under the seat, the sheriff said.

"He didn't know what he was going after," said Dunn, explaining the deputy's actions.

Holden drove off and Clark shot out his back tire, the sheriff said. Holden turned down Chambersville Road and crashed into a tree, police said. He was transported to the Dallas County Medical Center in Fordyce, where he was pronounced dead.

The body has been sent to the state medical examiner's office for an autopsy.

Clark was not placed on suspension, because he acted properly in the matter, Dunn said.

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