

Car strikes, kills pedestrian on Highway 66

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Gallup Police Department Capt. Marinda Spencer released the name of the woman who was hit by a car the evening of May 7.

Margina Antonio, 52, of Mentmore, N.M., was struck and killed while walking in the westbound lanes of U.S. Highway 66, between TravelCenters of America and Loves Travel Stop shortly before 9 pm. When officers arrived, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Spencer said police determined that the driver of the black Ford Mustang wasn't intoxicated. The driver also denied being distracted at the time, speeding, and using a cellphone. It's not clear whether Antonio was impaired, as toxicology test results are pending.

The driver told police that she wasn't sure of what she hit at first, Spencer said, but bystanders confirmed that she had struck a person. She called the police immediately to report the accident.

GPD Officer Charles Steele spoke to witnesses in the area, but none had further information.

Spencer said the place the woman was hit is a dark area, and all accident reports are sent to the state's highway department. From there, it is up to state officials to decide whether improvements need to be made in a certain area.