

2 arrested after 3-car crash kills man

Scottsdale police say 2 vehicles were traveling at high rate of speed before hitting third

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TRIBUNE

Two men were arrested Friday on suspicion of unintentionally killing a man whose car they hit during a high-speed collision along a busy stretch of Scottsdale Road.

Robert H. Van Brakel, 42, of Phoenix and Travis J. Aronica, 25, of Michigan were arrested after being treated at hospitals for injuries they suffered in the crash, Scottsdale police announced late Friday.

Scottsdale resident Calvin Holman, 76, a former state legislator representing Paradise Valley, was dead at the crash site, police said.

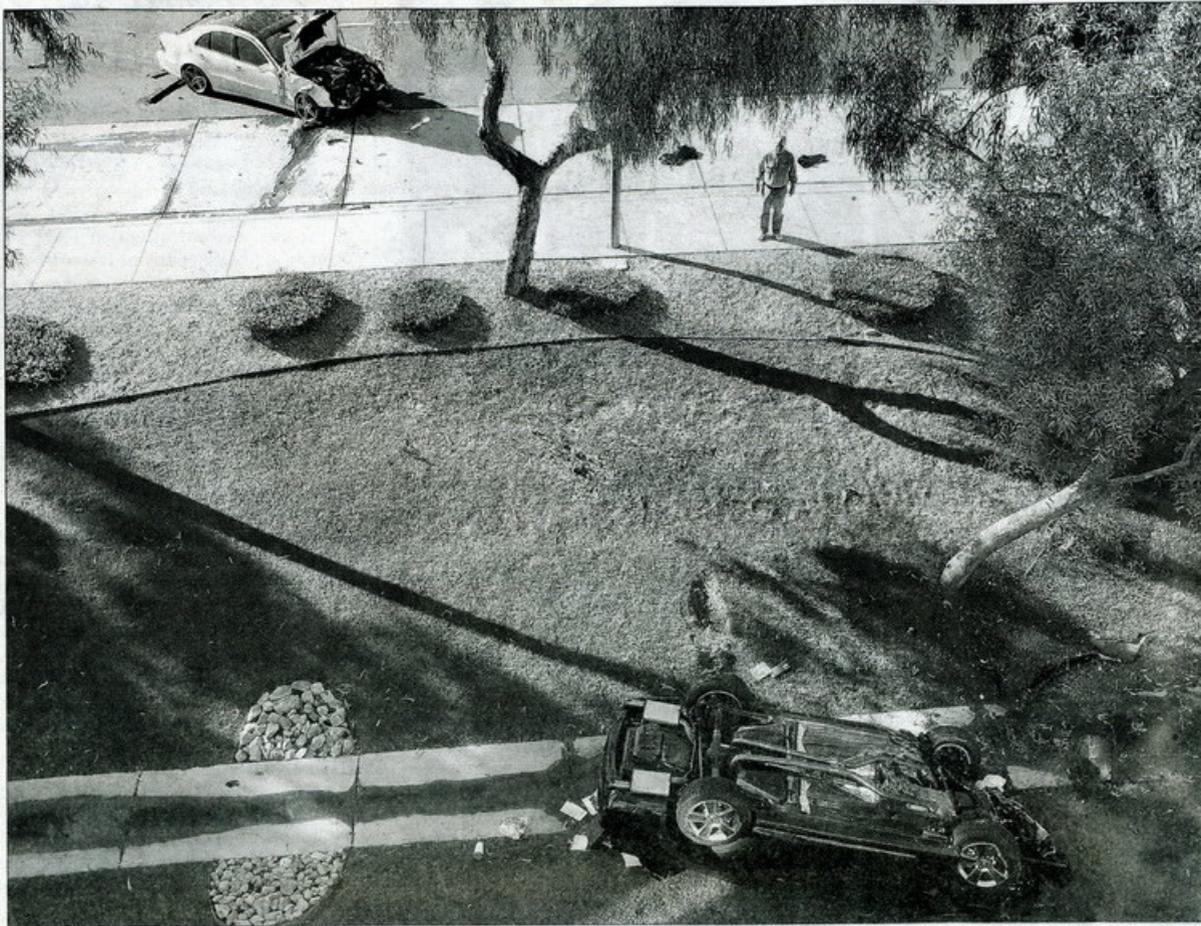
The two younger men, each in his own car, were traveling faster than 70 mph north on Scottsdale Road at about 12:45 p.m. when they hit Holman, who was traveling south and turning left onto Eastwood Lane, according to police.

Van Brakel was driving a white Mercedes-Benz. Aronica, with a 25-year-old woman passenger, was driving a black Ford Mustang.

The posted speed limit is 45 mph. Police did not say whether they believe the two men were racing. Van Brakel was the first to hit Holman's 1973 Chevrolet Camaro, followed seconds later by Aronica, police said.

"The violent forces of both impacts ejected the Camaro's driver from the vehicle," according to a posting on the Scottsdale police Web site.

The younger men, as well as the female passenger, all had injuries that were not life-threatening from the crash, which police described as "horrific."



PHOTOS BY LISA OLSON, TRIBUNE

CRASH SCENE: An overhead photo shows the scene of a fatal car crash Friday afternoon along Scottsdale Road near McCormick Parkway.

The crash shut down Scottsdale Road between McCormick Parkway and Doubletree Ranch Road well into Friday evening, with large numbers of vehicles diverted onto an already busy Hayden Road.

Wreckage from the three vehicles was strewn along Scottsdale Road, in the median and in a nearby grassy drainage area.

ABC15 contributed
to this report.

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INVESTIGATION: Scottsdale police officers work the scene of a fatal car crash involving three vehicles Friday afternoon along Scottsdale Road near McCormick Parkway.