Local man killed in crash on U.S. 82

By SHARON ANDERSON
Daily News Staff Writer

An Alamogordo man died Tuesday afternoon in a single vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 82.

The accident occurred just before 4 p.m. about a half-mile west of the tunnel and had traffic down to one lane for more than three hours, said Sheriff John Lee.

Antonio Villarreal, 65, of 1315 Cuba Ave., an employee of C & C Sanitation of Tularosa, evidently lost control of a company truck while heading west down the mountain.

According to State Police reports, the truck tipped onto the driver’s side and slid several feet across the pavement before going off the north side of the road and hit an embankment, said a State Police spokesman. No other vehicles were involved, he said.

High Rolls EMS was called out and Villarreal, who was pinned in the wreckage, was pronounced dead at the scene. The Otero County Sheriff’s Department also assisted at the scene.

Tuesday morning just before 8 a.m., a Sunner, S.C., man was injured when he hit a deer.

The accident occurred at mile post 25 on U.S. Highway 82 near Wimsatt Arena. According to a State Police report, Miller was driving a 1996 Saturn when a deer “jumped off a mountain onto his car.”

Miller was transported by EMS to Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital where, according to a hospital spokesperson, he was treated for minor injuries and released to the Holman AFB hospital.

49th Logistics Group gets new commander tomorrow

Two groups within the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base will change command this month – the 49th Logistics Group at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow and the 49th Operations Group on July 21.

The Logistics ceremony will take place at Heritage Park, while the Ops Group event will occur at the 49th Rescue Squadron.

Brig. Gen. Dennis R. Larsen, commander for the 49th Fighter Wing, will preside over both ceremonies.

Col. Guy R. Vandermark will assume command of the 49th Logistics Group from Col. William C. Armstrong, while Col. Kevin W. Smith will take the Ops Group reins from Col. Kurt A. Cichowski.

Vandermark is a native of Belgium and an OTS grad, who has served in various maintenance officer and logistics and support command positions.