

CRIME Henderson man said he fired gun out of fear **3B** **HEALTH** Promises about care not always kept **8B**

Two more die in wrong-way crashes

By Max Michor
Las Vegas Review-Journal

A recent spate of fatal wrong-way crashes continued over the weekend, leaving two women dead in less than six hours.

The first crash was reported just after 10 p.m. Saturday on northbound Interstate 15 between Jean and Sloan.

Then, just before 2 a.m. Sunday, the Nevada Highway Patrol responded to a crash on the 215 Beltway

Latest recurrences happen on I-15, Beltway

near the Charleston Boulevard exit.

On I-15, a woman in a Dodge traveling south in the northbound lanes was killed after her vehicle collided head-on with a tractor-trailer.

She died at the scene, but the two occupants of the trailer were unhurt, Highway Patrol trooper Travis Smaka said early Sunday. He said the crash left a

large fluid spill and debris field in the right lanes of the highway, and fire crews had to be called in to extract the woman from her vehicle.

"It is absolutely a tragedy especially as we're approaching the holiday season," Smaka said. "Here we are again, just days away from Christmas, and we've had someone else lose their life needlessly."

It was unclear how or when the woman began driving the wrong way, Smaka said.

As of Sunday evening, it was still unknown whether intoxication was a factor.

On the Beltway, a man was driving a Nissan sedan north in the southbound lanes of the freeway, the Highway Patrol said, before he collided with another Nissan sedan driven by a

woman.

Two men and two women were taken to University Medical Center for treatment, Smaka said, but the 41-year-old driver of the right-way traveling Nissan died from her injuries. Investigators suspect impairment was a factor in the crash.

Smaka said it's "not uncommon" for troopers to receive reports of wrong-way drivers. Last year, the

See **CRASH 2B**



MICK AKERS
ROAD WARRIOR

As drivers complain, officials listen

WHEN motorists are adamant enough about changes they think need to be made, state transportation officials have shown that they'll eventually listen.

Seemingly everyone's least favorite road addition of 2019, the 22 continuous miles of high occupancy vehicle lanes along Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 95 drew complaints even before they went live.

Now six months in and dozens of emails from angry readers later, the Nevada Department of Transportation announced it was making the first modification to the lanes.

The most common complaint about the carpool lanes — aside from the lanes being in existence at all — has been the lack of lane access points. So last week, NDOT said six new entry/exit areas will be added by the summer.

Based on the eye test of my daily commute on I-15, more and more people have been using the lanes — and fewer of them are single occupant vehicles. Drivers still commonly dart in and out of the

See **AKERS 2B**



Rachel Aston Las Vegas Review-Journal @rookie__rae

African-American ornaments cover Roxanne Givens' Christmas tree at her Las Vegas home. Givens has expanded on her mother's Christmas decorating tradition by amassing a collection of African-American portrayals.

Cultural Christmas

Decorating tradition melds holidays, woman's heritage

By Heidi Knapp Rinella • Las Vegas Review-Journal

ROXANNE GIVENS had a storybook childhood, with Christmas celebrations directed by her mother, Phebe, who could have been one of Santa's elves.

Her mother started collecting diminutive Victorian villages decades ago and each year, with a collection of more than 150 little buildings and the help of her children, would craft elaborate displays of miniature holiday vignettes.

Roxanne wanted to pass on the tradition to her own children and did. But there was one major dif-

See **CHRISTMAS 2B**



Roxanne Givens started diversifying her collection of Christmas decorations in roughly the late 1990s.

Video

Las Vegas collects African-American Christmas decorations
► www.lvrj.com/culturalchristmas

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