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News Update



Chandler and Mesa firefighters look over the accident scene involving a Volkswagen Beetle and a Salvation Army truck along Alma School Road in Chandler.

Tim Hacker Tribune

2 Dobson students killed, 3 others hurt in crash

By Kristina Davis, Tribune

Two Dobson High School students were killed and three of their classmates seriously injured Thursday in a lunchtime crash in Chandler, police said.

Shayna Linneen, 16, the driver of a newer-model Volkswagen Beetle died after being flown to Maricopa County Medical Center for surgery. Krystal Ebel, 15, a back seat passenger, was pronounced dead at the scene, said Chandler detective Rob Krauthheim. Three other passengers — Anna Shipley, 17; Tyler Spurbeck, 18; and Robert Brecht, 17 — were also taken to hospitals.

Witnesses told police that an off-road type vehicle cut off the Beetle while it was driving north on Alma School Road near Summit Drive at 11:45 a.m. The Beetle swerved into the raised median, sheared off a large palm tree and continued into oncoming traffic, where it was hit by a Salvation Army truck, Krauthheim said. The truck's driver and passenger were not injured.

"It was a horrific accident," Krauthheim said.

Police said the friends were driving back to their Mesa school after going off campus for lunch.

Firefighters used the Jaws of Life to rip the roof off the car to pull out victims.

Investigators said Ebel and another passenger were not wearing seat belts.

Police ask anyone with information to call (480) 782-4130.

- Tribune reporter Nick Martin contributed to this report.

Contact Kristina Davis by email, or phone () -

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