



MEDIA RELEASE

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DR# 2012-12656

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10:00 AM, February 22, 2012

Death/Unknown

Location of Incident: Yuma, Arizona

On 2/21/2012 at 0721 hours, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office received a report of a deceased subject who had been found in a canal near the 5200 Block of Power Lane. The deceased subject was found face down in a canal which had recently been drained. Deputies who responded to the scene noticed the deceased subject matched the description of a subject who was being sought for involvement earlier in the morning in an attempted robbery/theft of a vehicle. Further investigation confirmed that the deceased subject was in fact the suspect in the earlier incident which involved an attempted robbery and theft of a vehicle.

On 02/21/2012, at 0351 hours, Deputies had responded to a residence in the 6900 block of W. Strand Avenue after the victim in the case reported he had been assaulted by a subject whom he caught trying to steal his vehicle. The victim said he had been awoken by the sounds of his vehicle engine revving and went outside to investigate. The victim said he found the suspect sitting in the driver seat of his vehicle revving the engine and trying to drive off. (The vehicle was up on jacks at the time as the owner had been working on it.) The owner/victim said when he opened the passenger door to confront the suspect, he was immediately struck in the head by a thrown object. A struggle between the victim and the suspect ensued with the suspect ultimately fleeing the scene on foot. Responding Deputies searched the area for the suspect without success.

It is unknown how or why the suspect entered the canal where he was later found deceased. The cause of death has yet to be determined and is pending results from the medical examiners office. The deceased suspect has not yet been identified but is described as a large build Native American man between 30-40 years old. Anyone with any information concerning either incident is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at 783-4427.

Information Released By: Capt. E. Bratcher