Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# 2023-51250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2023 – 9:50 AM

Missing Person

UPDATE

Location of Incident: Colorado River near Hidden Cove RV– Yuma, AZ

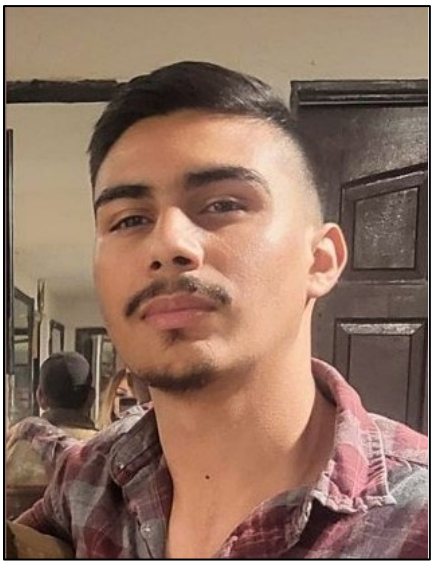
Update: On Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at approximately 8:12 AM, Brian Vasquez was found deceased in the area of Cocopah Bend RV Park.

A kayaker in the area called the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) to report finding him east of the RV park. Local agencies involved in the search and the Medical Examiner responded.

Next of kin has been notified.

Original Release - June 6, 2023 – 3:30 PM
On Monday, June 5, 2023, at approximately 6:36 PM, Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) received a report of a missing person in the water who was doing a float down in the Colorado River.

The missing person, identified as Brian Vasquez, 20, of Yuma, AZ, is described as being approximately 5'5 tall, weighing approximately 128 lbs., with brown hair, and brown eyes. Brian was last seen wearing black shorts.


Brian Vasquez

Upon Deputy arrival, it was learned that a float down group entered the river near the Ocean to Ocean bridge and floated to Hidden Cove RV launch ramp where they attempted to get off the water. People from the group were able to get to the edge of the water except the victim, who kept going downriver. The group reported seeing the victim submerge under water and not come back up.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office, Border Patrol, CBP Air Unit, Yuma Police Department and the Yuma Fire Department Units responded to the scene. Agencies conducted an extensive search of the water and shores by both watercraft and air units, yielding negative results. At approximately 8:15 PM the search was discontinued.

On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at approximately 6:21 AM, first responders resumed the search for the missing person. Search efforts consisted of boating units, dive teams, and ground personnel. The search took place west of Hidden Cove RV Park with both the Arizona and California portion of the Colorado River being covered. At approximately 1:00 PM the search was discontinued. Law enforcement boating units will continue to remain in the area for the remainder of day and tomorrow.

If anyone has information, please contact the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at 928-783-4427 or 78-CRIME to remain anonymous. You can also visit our website at www.yumacountysheriff.org to submit an anonymous tip.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist