



**Leon N. Wilmot**  
Sheriff of Yuma County

## **Yuma County Sheriff's Office**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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DR# 2026-12606

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 18, 2026 – 3:00 PM

## **Fatal Collision**

**Location of Incident:** E. County 8th Street and S. Avenue 44 E – Yuma, AZ

On Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at approximately 3:49 PM, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office received a report of a single-vehicle collision in the area of E. County 8th Street and Avenue 44 E.

The initial investigation indicates a 2006 Mercury Grand Marquis was traveling westbound on County 8th Street when the driver failed to negotiate a curve and veered off the roadway. The vehicle traveled down an embankment and entered a canal.

Both the driver and passenger were able to exit the vehicle; however, the driver was swept away by the current and drowned.

Personnel with Tri-Valley Fire District responded and attempted life-saving measures. The driver was ultimately pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver is identified as Missael Orozco Leon, 32, of Somerton, AZ. Next of kin notification has been made.

This case remains under investigation at this time. Impairment and speed are suspected to be a factor in this collision.

Anyone with information regarding this case, 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](http://www.yumacountysheriff.org) to submit an anonymous tip.

**Information Released By:** Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist