



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: Alfonso Zavala
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# 2019-52711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2019, 4:15 P.M.

Fatality Collision

Location of Incident: South Highway 95 & West County 15th Street - Somerton, Arizona

On Saturday, June 22, 2019 at approximately 7:56 A.M. the Yuma County Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle collision involving a bicyclist just south of the intersection of South Highway 95 and West County 15th Street.

The initial investigation revealed a dark 2006 Hyundai Sonata sedan was traveling southbound on Highway 95 approaching the intersection at County 15th Street. The driver of the vehicle, swerved off of the roadway south of County 15th Street on Highway 95, and struck the bicyclist who had been traveling southbound from the same intersection on the shoulder of the roadway. The driver of the vehicle departed the scene without stopping.

A short time later the Hyundai Sonata and driver were located on Highway 95 just south of Gadsden. The Yuma County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau and Critical Accident Response Team responded to the scene and assumed the investigation.

The bicyclist, Mr. Jose Vasquez-Rodriguez, 77, of Somerton, succumbed to his injuries from the collision and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Next of kin notification has been made.

The driver of the Sonata, Rafael Nunez, 22, of Yuma, has been arrested and booked into the Yuma County Detention Center for 2nd Degree Murder and Manslaughter.

Alcohol does appear 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 to submit an anonymous tip.

Information Released By: Alfonso Zavala, Public Information Officer