



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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

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# PRESS RELEASE

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DR# NA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2020 – 6:15 PM

## Narcotics Seizure

**Location of Incident:** 600 block of N. Main Street – San Luis, AZ

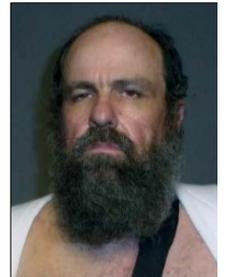
On Friday, February 28, 2020, at approximately 6:49 a.m., Thomas Howard was attempting to gain entry into the United States at the Port of San Luis, Arizona. During the inspection of his vehicle, the Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO) noted some discrepancies and was going to refer him to secondary inspection. Howard fled from the primary inspection lane at a high rate of speed, nearly hitting an officer. He continued at a high rate of speed down a high volume pedestrian and vehicle trafficked area of Main Street in San Luis, Arizona. Howard struck multiple curbs, and a pedestrian until finally striking a light pole, disabling his vehicle; he then fled from the vehicle on foot. Witnesses of the collision gave chase and were able to apprehend Howard until Agents with the Yuma County Narcotics Task Force took him into custody.

San Luis Police officers responded to reports of a collision occurring in the 600 block of N. Main Street, in San Luis, Arizona with multiple victims possibly injured from a vehicle. It was determined through the investigation that a single pedestrian's foot was run over.

Customs and Border Protection sent a K-9 Unit to the scene as the vehicle originated from Mexico and fleeing from the port. The K-9 alerted to a spare tire in the bed of the truck and the vehicle was taken back to the port for further inspection.

The Yuma County Narcotics Task Force (YCNTF)—which is a multi-agency task force comprised of officers and agents from the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, the Yuma Police Department, the U.S. Border Patrol, and the Homeland Security Investigations—along with Officers of the San Luis Police Department and Customs and Border Protection, assisted with a search of the vehicle. The search of the vehicle revealed a total of 55 individual packages containing methamphetamine in a spare tire. Additional baggies containing methamphetamine were also located within the vehicle. The combined weight of the packages of methamphetamine was more than 50 pounds with an estimated street value of \$52,000.00 dollars.

The driver of the vehicle, **Thomas Andrew Howard**, 50, of Yuma, Arizona, was arrested and booked by the Yuma County Narcotics Task Force into the Yuma County Detention Center for transportation of a dangerous drug, possession of a dangerous drug for sale, possession of a dangerous drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with evidence and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.



Thomas A. Howard

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public to call (928) 783-4427 to report any suspected drug activity or visit our website at [www.yumacountysheriff.org](http://www.yumacountysheriff.org) to submit an anonymous tip.

**Information Released By: Inv. William Rice**