



NEWS RELEASE

Yuma Police Department
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For Immediate Release

Date: Friday, September 22, 2023
Contact: Sergeant Lori Franklin
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Case: 23-53735

SCHOOL THREATS

Yuma, AZ –

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at approximately 1:26 p.m., the Yuma Police Department received information about a possible threat to occur at Gila Ridge High School. The threat was seen on a social media platform. The account was quickly taken down, but not before a screenshot was taken of the post and reported to us. This threat was investigated and deemed not credible.

On Friday, September 22, 2023, at approximately 12:09 a.m., the Yuma Police Department received information about a possible threat seen on a social media platform, where a picture of a Gila Ridge band student's face was altered and had the words "first to go" on it. The investigation showed the original photo of the student with the words "first to go" was verified by the photographer referencing a photography session that will take place for band members and this student was the first one to be photographed. This incident is not related to the threats report from Tuesday.

The Yuma Police Department worked with the Yuma Union High School District regarding both cases. Both investigations showed that these two incidents are unrelated and not deemed credible.

The Yuma Police Department takes all school threats very seriously and will investigate each one of them. We appreciate the members of our community who alerted us to this incident and gave us the opportunity to verify the threat. We are asking the parents and guardians of all students to speak with them about the serious consequences of following any challenges encouraging acts of violence circulating on social media.

The Yuma Police Department encourages anyone with any information about this case to please call the Yuma Police Department at [928-783-4421](tel:928-783-4421) or 78-Crime at [\(928\) 782-7463](tel:928-782-7463) to remain anonymous.

Information Released by: Sergeant Lori Franklin