

Gila County Detective Johnny Holmes Finds Missing Woman and Her Jeep in Pinto Creek 8/9/10



Action Towing Pulled the Jeep from the bottom of the Canyon.

63 year old Diane Thielbar was found dead at the bottom of Pinto Creek on August 4 at 12:45 pm.

Thielbar had been reported missing on July 26, the same day her husband, 60 year old Harry Thielbar was found dead at his residence in Claypool. Detectives say that they found 24 cats living in the house. Detective Johnny Holmes said it appeared he had been deceased for nearly a month.

Detectives had information that Diane Thielbar had been at their residence and knew of her husbands death. Detective Holmes said that none of Diane's family or friends had seen or spoken to her.

Detective Holmes monitored activity on the couples bank account. On August 3, an auto deposit was made into their account. After Diane, who said to have had no money, did not access those funds, Detective Holmes feared the worse.

He knew that Diane had been troubled in the past, and had made comments to others about driving off a cliff. He said he figured that her old jeep would not make up highway 77 or the Salt River Canyon so on a hunch he went out to the Pinto Creek Bridge.

At first he said he didn't see anything unusual but after hiking around to get a different view he noticed a vehicle at the bottom of the canyon. He contacted DPS who said they had no record of a new vehicle at the bottom of the canyon.

Two officers geared up and headed down into the canyon. Detective Holmes was able to make a positive ID on the Jeep from the roadside. It was confirmed that it indeed was Diane's Jeep and that she had been ejected and killed during the fall. Emergency Personnel from Tri-City, Globe and Canyon Fire assisted in the rope recovery of Diane Thielbar's body.

