



# NEWS RELEASE

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GLENDALEAZ.COM/POLICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2021

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## **Glendale Police Arrest Suspect from Canal Hit and Run**

**GLENDALE, AZ.** – On March 30, 2021, at approximately 12:51AM, at the intersection of 99<sup>th</sup> Ave and Maryland officers responded for a two-vehicle collision, resulting with one vehicle into the canal. A dark colored sedan was traveling westbound on Maryland Ave when it failed to stop for the red traffic signal at N. 99<sup>th</sup> Ave. The sedan collided with a white pick-up truck that was traveling southbound on N. 99<sup>th</sup> Ave. The impact from the collision caused the truck to roll onto its side and land inside the canal killing the sole occupant adult female driver. The driver of the truck has been identified as 50-year-old Leauna Christensen (Phoenix resident).

The occupants of the sedan were witnessed walking away from the accident westbound on Maryland Ave. The driver left his wallet in the vehicle and officers responded to his residence where evidence of the collision was located, and he was placed under arrest. The hit and run driver has been identified as Rudy A. Valdez Herrera, a 23-year-old Phoenix resident. He was transported to a local hospital and treated for a non-life threatening injury. On April 7, 2021 Valdez Herrera self-surrendered and was booked into jail on failure to remain on scene of a fatal accident, a class 2 felony. Impairment is being investigated at this time and the investigation is ongoing for additional criminal charges. Photographs have been included below of both drivers.

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*\*Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission  
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department  
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*



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*Suspect Driver: Rudy Valdez Herrera (23-year-old)*



*Victim: Leauna Christensen (50-year-old)*