



MEDIA RELEASE

July 13, 2009

Press Release—Grant County Sheriff's Office

**** Homicide, gang related, Mattawa / Desert Aire ****

On July 11th at about 1:45 AM nearly simultaneous 911 calls to emergency dispatch advised of shots fired in the community of Desert Aire, 4-miles south of Mattawa, and a victim of a possible gunshot wound laying in the street near a Laundromat on Riverview in the town of Mattawa.

As deputies responded to Desert Aire, a Mattawa City police officer found a juvenile male deceased and laying near a vehicle at the intersection of Riverview & Hoose Street. The juvenile had what appeared to be a gunshot wound to his head. As a Grant County deputy arrived in Desert Aire it was broadcast that the deceased juvenile at Riverview & Hoose Street was involved in an all out mayhem fight at the intersection of Desert Aire Dr. & Thunderbird Way in Desert Aire. The deceased juvenile was apparently shot in Desert Aire and taken to the location in the city limits of Mattawa.

Also, as a part of the mayhem in Desert Aire, deputies responded to a one-vehicle rollover collision one-half mile north of the intersection of Road 24 SW & SR 243. It was determined that a 1998 Cadillac Coupe DeVille 4-door had two occupants and had been a part of the incident in Desert Aire.

Witnesses reported several gunshots during the mayhem in Desert Aire and fighting between several males. One male was transported to an area hospital with blunt force trauma to his head and one other male complained of neck pain from the traffic collision on SR 243. The Washington State Patrol assisted by processing the collision scene.

This fatality incident is gang related as confirmed on scene and by witnesses. A release of names would include several juveniles. The sheriff's office is withholding names of those involved at this time for the safety of others. The Grant County Coroner's Office took control of the body and an autopsy will be performed on the 17-year old on Tuesday at 11 AM at the Forensic Institute located at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake to determine exact cause of death. Anyone who has information that might help with this investigation should call the sheriff's office at: 509-754-2011 ext. 468.