



County of Santa Clara

Medical Examiner-Coroner
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PRESS RELEASE

TO: All news outlets and the general public

FROM: Michelle A. Jorden, MD – Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

Laura E. Bailey – Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner Investigator

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SUBJECT: Seeking Public Assistance to Locate Family Members

DATE: July 5, 2024

The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office has made the positive identification of Johnny Puentes, DOB 03/26/1952, who died on 9/20/1989. Despite efforts, this office has been unable to locate Johnny Puentes' family and is seeking assistance to do so.

On 9/20/1989, Johnny Puentes was found deceased on the bank of Coyote Creek near Story Road in San Jose, CA.

Johnny Puentes weighed 140 pounds and measured 66 inches tall. He was described as a 37-year possibly Hispanic male with black hair. His eye color is unknown.

He was wearing blue jeans and yellow high top tennis shoes at the time of his death. Found near the decedent was a red tote bag marked "Marlboro", a blue windbreaker type jacket, blue UCLA polo shirt, blue net type T-shirt, and a tan or gray polo shirt. All clothing was marked with sizes with a waterproof marker as if reissued by an agency. The back of the label inside the tote bag is marked "Red."

Information has been uploaded into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) which is a national centralized repository and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States. NamUs provides technology, forensic services, and investigative support to resolve missing person and unidentified remains cases.

If you have any information, please contact the Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office Investigations Unit at 408-793-1900 extension 3.

Reference case number for the Medical Examiner: 89-263-005.

Reference numbers for NamUs: UP125097 and UCP125133