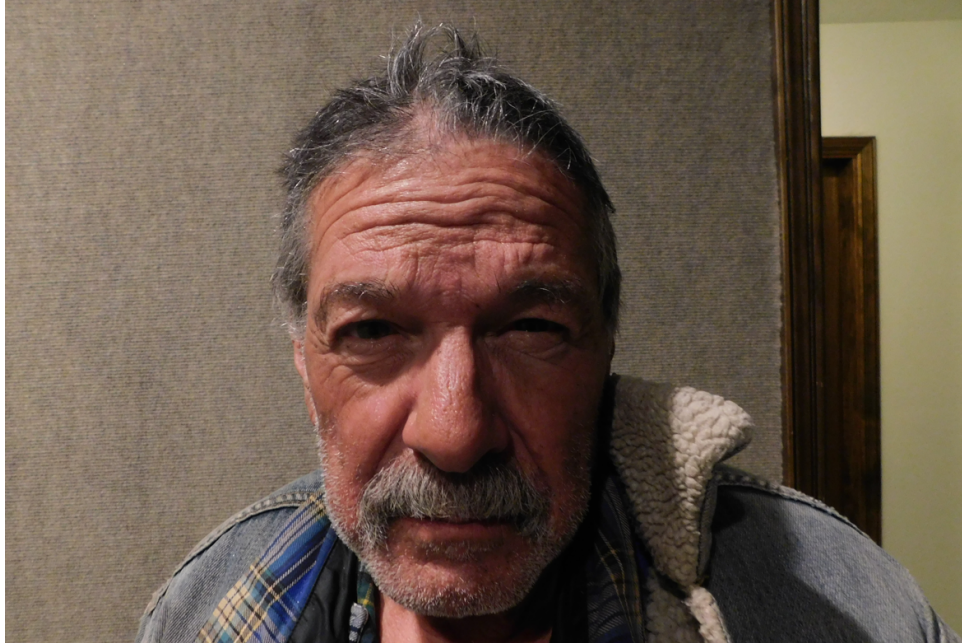


12th Judicial Major Crimes Unit

Arrest of Edward Chavez



NEWS RELEASE: On Saturday, January 28, 2023, the 12th Judicial Major Crimes Unit was activated to investigate a homicide that occurred in Dog Canyon, Otero County, NM. During the course of the investigation it was learned 64 year old Edward Chavez murdered 58 year old Renee Gooch.

On January 31, 2023, Law Enforcement published a be on the lookout (BOLO) to the public requesting assistance in locating Edward. With the help of the public, Edward was located and taken into custody without incident by Investigators with the 12th Judicial Major Crimes Unit and Deputies with the Otero County Sheriffs Office.

Edward Chavez has been charged with murder in the 1st degree (open charge) and two (2) counts of tampering with evidence. Edward was booked into the Otero County Detention Center pending his first appearance in court. If convicted of these charges Edward faces up to life in prison.

This case was investigated by the 12th Judicial District Major Crimes Unit, a task force comprised of Investigators from the Alamogordo Police Department, Ruidoso Police Department, Otero County Sheriffs Office, Lincoln County Sheriffs Office and the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office.