

# Media Release

## Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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**October 26, 2011- UPDATE – NOTEWORTHY TIP RECEIVED**

### ***YCSO Seeking Public Help to Locate Missing Adult from Village of Oak Creek***

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Yesterday, YCSO received a tip from an area resident who had seen a hitch hiker on October 19, 2011, partially matching the description of **James Schwartz**. The caller indicated she saw the man around 5 PM on Highway 179 near the US Forest Service Ranger Station. The man was seen attempting to flag down vehicles heading towards the I17. The man's jacket was similar to the grey fleece jacket James was likely wearing. He was wearing hiking boots, had a similar overall height and build, and was carrying a black colored back pack. Mrs. Schwartz has confirmed James is likely in possession of a black "JanSport" brand back pack. The caller did not see this man enter a vehicle. *Remember, the man was not positively identified as Schwartz – this tip is only mentioned in hopes of generating calls for those in the area that may have seen this individual and can provide additional information.*



Updated information from family – James is likely wearing "Hi-Tec" brand hiking boots. The backpack will probably contain some survival items including an orange tarp, navy blue waterproof jacket and survival book. James has previously expressed interest in spending time around the Temple, Tucson, and Las Vegas areas.

If anyone saw someone fitting the description of James Schwartz walking in this area on Wednesday, October 19, please contact YCSO at 928-771-3260. If someone recalls providing transportation to a man fitting the description of James Schwartz, please call immediately. All tips are being investigated.

***A reminder – Since we have not been able to verify the hitch hiker was James Schwartz, this tip does not preclude a possibility James could still be in the VOC/Sedona area. YCSO encourages those hiking in and around Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek to keep alert for any sightings of Mr. Schwartz.***

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**October 24, 2011 - UPDATE – SCHWARTZ STILL NOT LOCATED – PHOTO UPDATED--**A search effort to locate James Schwartz was conducted in earnest on Friday, October 21, 2011. Coordinated by the YCSO Forest Patrol Unit, deputies directed deployment of 4 search dogs and helicopter flyovers. Searchers checked areas around his home, including trails, which were reported commonly used by Schwartz in the past. No additional clues were discovered during the ground and aerial searches. The helicopter service was provided by Guardian Air.

Since Friday and over the weekend, deputies have contacted businesses in the Village of Oak Creek to alert employees and review store video tapes if available. No sightings of Schwartz were reported. Further video reviews are pending.

Deputies received calls over the weekend claiming Schwartz was seen in the Prescott area. None of these leads has led to success in finding Schwartz.

Family members are monitoring his financial accounts in hopes of catching activity involving Schwartz which could identify his whereabouts. Schwartz did have access to cash which could provide a means of travel from the area. Schwartz had completed some housekeeping and yard clean-up the day of his disappearance, and although despondent, his family does not believe he is suicidal.

YCSO encourages anyone with information regarding Schwartz to immediately call 928-771-3260 or 911.

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**October 21, 2011** - The Yavapai County Sheriff's Office is seeking public assistance to locate a missing adult who resides at 160 Bent Tree Drive, Village of Oak Creek.

The missing person's name is James Schwartz and he was last seen at home by his wife on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, around 6:30 AM. He was reported missing just before 10 PM that evening.

**Schwartz is 66-years-old, 5' 08" tall, 190 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair.** He is likely wearing a grey fleece jacket displaying the name "Sedona" in the upper right corner, short pants and hiking boots. Schwartz may be wearing/carrying a khaki hat with a flashlight on it and in possession of a day pack. He is a diabetic and does not have insulin with him. He left behind his wallet, cell phone, car keys, and apparently walked away sometime during the day on October 19. His wife did confirm he was home and asleep at 6:30 AM when she went to work the morning of October 19.



Schwartz is likely despondent due to an argument he had with his wife the evening of October 18, 2011, as indicated by a note he left for her which was found yesterday. He is not known to carrying any weapons.

Also yesterday, deputies initiated a search of the area and followed up on leads but were unable to locate Schwartz. This morning, search dogs have been deployed in the area.

If anyone has information regarding the whereabouts of James Schwartz, please call YCSO immediately at 928-771-3260.