

Woman charged in Gila Bend crash that killed man, twin daughter

By Adrian Hedden

AZCentral.com | June 20, 2016

A 22-year-old woman who police say may have been under the influence when she drove head-on into another vehicle on June 10 in Gila Bend has been charged with manslaughter in the deaths of a man and one of his twin daughters, court records show.

Jayne Ray Gibson was being held in a Maricopa County jail Monday in lieu of a \$75,000 bond.

Gibson was arrested last week upon her release from a West Valley hospital, where she was treated for injuries sustained in the crash that killed Mario Lopez, 45, and Melissa Ceballos, 21, and injured five others, records show.

Maricopa County sheriff's investigators allege in court records that Gibson was speeding when she drove into a curve on State Route 85 and lost control of her Dodge Ram pickup truck, which veered into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a Nissan Pathfinder driven by Lopez.

Sheriff's detectives said they found several containers of a "green leafy substance" believed to be marijuana. The contents of a pipe also found in the truck, they said, tested positive for the drug.

Gibson admitted to smoking marijuana earlier that day, according to court records, but could not provide a timeline of her use. She was also found to be driving without a license, records show.

Detectives said they found 115 feet of skid marks at the scene. Based on a reconstruction of the accident, detectives said, Gibson was driving no less than 75 mph in a 40-mph zone. Detectives also said they found Gibson had not applied the brakes during the collision.

Records show Gibson is charged with two counts of manslaughter and two counts of aggravated assault. She is also facing three counts of endangerment.

Gibson is next expected to be in court Wednesday.

Injured in the crash were Lopez's wife, 47, Ceballos' twin sister and Lopez's two grandchildren, ages 4 and 2, records show.

Lopez and Ceballos were declared dead at the scene, police said. His wife, surviving daughter and 4-year-old grandchild were flown to Maricopa Integrated Health System, formerly known as Maricopa County Medical Center, in Phoenix. The 2-year-old was taken to a nearby hospital with minor injuries.

Gibson was found trapped in the driver's seat of the Dodge Ram and had to be extricated by medical personnel. She and her passenger, a 24-year-old man, were taken to a West Valley hospital: Gibson with broken bones to the left side of her body and foot, and the man with bruises and a small cut on his face, records show.

Investigators said the Nissan passengers were expected to recover from their injuries.