

# Hunt for food exec yields SUV, body

By David J. Cieslak  
and Charles Kelly  
The Arizona Republic

A sport-utility vehicle belonging to a missing Del Monte executive was found Sunday about a half-mile from a body, although authorities have yet to identify the corpse, authorities said.

Pedro Corzo, 35, general manager of the southwest region for Del Monte Fresh Produce Southwest Inc., was last seen Friday about 5:30 p.m. Corzo lives in Harquahala Valley, near Buckeye, and works out of Del Monte's corporate office in Goodyear.

Staffers with Del Monte found Corzo's blue 2002 Ford Explorer about 10 miles north of Gasline Road in rural Maricopa County. Investigators said the body was found Sunday evening in a wash with no obvious signs of trauma, although they have yet to determine a cause of death, said Lt. J.J. Tuttle, a Maricopa County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

No damage or theft was found on the vehicle, and Tuttle did not know whether it had broken down.

Corzo on Friday was scheduled to travel to a farm in Dateland, where he and his manager planned to meet with Del

Monte field workers.

The men left around noon or 1 p.m., but Corzo was called back to the office to get some paperwork. The manager continued on to Dateland, expecting Corzo to meet him there, but Corzo never arrived.

Corzo calls his wife "every 15 minutes when he's on the road," said Ron Rockwell, Corzo's pastor at the Harvest-time Assembly of God Church. His wife, Shelly, is eight months pregnant and the couple has a 2-year-old daughter, Rockwell said. "We have great suspicions that something has happened to him," he said.