

November 3, 2007 - 7:16AM

Mesa police ID woman found in canal

Gary Grado, Tribune

The dead woman found in a Mesa canal this week was identified Friday as Elise Lea Dewakuku, 32. Her body was found Thursday exactly a mile from where a murdered woman was found in the street three weeks ago.

Detective Diana Tapia, Mesa police spokeswoman, said that there is no link between the deaths at this point, and that detectives aren't even sure how Dewakuku died. A couple on a morning stroll reported seeing a body in the canal near 24th Street and McKellips Road at 5:39 a.m. Thursday.

About 5 a.m., Oct. 14, a newspaper carrier found another woman's body on the road in the 2700 block of East Leonora Street. Police said Karen Jane Campbell was murdered, but they wouldn't reveal how she was killed.

Body identified in canal death

Nicole Stewart

The Arizona Republic

Nov. 2, 2007 12:28 PM

A woman who was found dead in a Mesa canal Thursday morning has been identified as Elsie Lea Dewakuku, 32, of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

A couple taking a morning walk near the canal in the 2400 block of East McKellips Road spotted her body floating in the water, police said. Mesa police received a call about 5:40 a.m. reporting what appeared to be a body in the canal, said Det. Diana Tapia, a police spokeswoman. When they arrived five minutes later, they found Dewakuku's body floating in the canal. She was pronounced dead shortly thereafter., Tapia said. Police are handling the case as a death investigation.