

Officers: Body is Lum's

LATHROP - The man whose body was recovered from the San Joaquin River on Sunday was Jeremy Lum, the Sheriff's Office confirmed Tuesday.

Now the 29-year-old man's Lathrop family is wondering whether he would still be alive had his arrest and release from jail been handled differently.

The Sheriff's Office reported Lum was arrested last Wednesday night at Long Barn and Woodfield drives on suspicion of public intoxication after residents reported him as suspicious.

Deputy Les Garcia, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, said deputies determined Lum was drunk based on his condition and behavior.

"It was based on signs and symptoms and a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, and he had been vomiting," Garcia said.

Lum was booked into San Joaquin County Jail at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday and released about seven hours later. When he didn't return home, his family searched for him.

His body was found Sunday afternoon near Howard Road Bridge, about two miles from the jail. His aunt, Cindy Lum, said an autopsy indicated her nephew had drowned.

Cindy Lum, speaking for the family, said she doubts that her nephew was drunk and is worried that his medical needs were ignored at the jail. Jeremy Lum suffered from bipolar disorder, for which he was taking medication. He may have neglected to take his medicine or was suffering side effects, she said.

"There are some conditions that can be mistaken for alcohol intoxication," she said.

Cindy Lum said her nephew, who was arrested near a relative's home, should have been taken to a family member. Garcia said deputies called Jeremy Lum's family last Wednesday night but were unable to reach anyone.

"When you come across somebody like that, you can't just leave them alone; they could walk into traffic, pass out," Garcia said.

Cindy Lum is concerned that at the jail, her nephew's condition worsened and that, as an assumed drunk, he was ignored.

"Why did they not suspect something else was going on?" she said. "I'm just wondering what happened while in there."

Garcia said that at the jail, Jeremy Lum told a booking officer he was bipolar and so was evaluated by medical staff and that he was checked again in the morning before his release.

"He signed the release form, and once he does, we have no legal authority to keep him," Garcia said.

Jeremy Lum's family, Cindy Lum said, is not looking to cast blame but is concerned about what can happen when a person who is mentally ill gets swept up by law enforcement.

"We are today grieving and honoring Jeremy, and we just hope this doesn't happen to another family," she said.

To that end, the family has established a fund, the Jeremy Lum Memorial Trust, at Delta National Bank.

The account number is 22179925. The money, Lum said, will be used to raise awareness and lobby to change the way the mentally ill are treated.

By Christian Burkin of [The Record](#)