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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preliminary Hearing Set for Man Charged with Shooting Horse

(Phoenix) -- Michael James is behind bars at the Graham County Jail for allegedly shooting a horse worth \$3,500 in Solomon, Arizona. In addition, James faces numerous other charges involving a firearm. On the night of January 1, 2006, the owner of the registered quarterhorse fed the animal. However, when he went to check on the animal January 2, 2006, the horse was dead, shot with just one bullet from a .45 caliber.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture was called in to investigate the situation and pulled the bullet out of the animal. The bullet was then turned in to Graham County Sheriff's office and further testing showed this same bullet was linked to six other incidents where James allegedly shot into six buildings while people were inside. In addition, the Safford Police Department, Thatcher Police Department and Pima Police Department were all involved in working to bring this man to justice on numerous other charges.

Currently, James faces one count of cruelty to livestock, which means he could have to pay the owner of the animal three times the animal's value. In addition, more livestock related charges are pending.

Now, the preliminary hearing will take place in Safford Justice Court, February 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. This will determine the exact charges he faces and he will have an opportunity to enter a plea.

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