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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bicycles Back Home After Bike Thief is Busted
-- Chico Police TARGET Team Recovers Stolen Property --

Chico, CA – The Chico Police Department TARGET Team has successfully returned stolen property to its rightful owners. On May 17, 2017, TARGET Team members recovered two previously reported stolen bicycles.

At approximately 3:00 PM, TARGET Team members, on routine patrol downtown, spotted an individual in Lost Park removing parts from a bicycle. The suspicious behavior led officers to make contact to that individual, Chico resident Nicholas Ofria.

Officers checked the serial numbers of both bikes. One had been reported stolen in a residential burglary one day earlier; May 16, 2017. The second bike in Ofria's possession had been reported stolen two weeks prior from a Chico school.

Officers arrested Ofria, charging him with felony residential burglary, misdemeanor possession of stolen property and violation of probation. He was transported to the Butte County Jail. Officials set bail at \$53,000.

The Chico Police TARGET Team has returned both bicycles to their rightful owners.

Residents are reminded to always keep bicycles, as well as other private property, securely locked. The Chico Police Department encourages bicycle owners to obtain proper licensing and registration for bicycles. For more information visit <http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/finance/BicycleLicenses.asp>. Residents may also utilize the Chico Police Department Mobile Application to store personal property information, including serial numbers.

****Photo of Nicholas Ofria attached****

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The Chico Police Department is committed to ensuring our community is a safe place to live, work, and recreate within!



Photo: Nicholas Ofria