



Chico Police Department, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 www.chico.ca.us/

Detective Nick Bauer

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 17, 2017

Homicide Suspect Arrested

Chico, CA- On Monday, July 17th, 2017 at approximately 0220 hours, Chico Police Officers were conducting searches on foot for homicide suspect Marc Valcarengi. Valcarengi was known to frequent the area north of East Avenue on Esplanade. While searching the 2700 Block of Esplanade, Officers observed Valcarengi sleeping in some vegetation. Officers immediately recognized Valcarengi and were able to arrest Valcarengi without incident. Valcarengi was later transported to Chico Police Department.

Chico Police Department received numerous tips throughout the investigation regarding Valcarengi's possible whereabouts. Chico Police Department would like to thank the public for their participation and assistance in this investigation.

Press Release 7-14-17

With regards to the press release sent on 7/13/17 (see below), the victim can now be identified as **Audra Rochelle Houston (9/19/82)**.

Press Release 7-13-17

Chico, CA – On Wednesday, July 12, 2017 shortly after 7:00PM, Chico Police Officers responded to a call from an employee at the Safari Inn located at 2352 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926, to report a dead woman discovered in one of the rooms.

Officers arrived to the address and based on a preliminary overview of the scene, determined the death appeared suspicious. Chico Police Detectives were called to further investigate. Upon arrival detectives interviewed several witnesses at the scene. Crime Scene Investigators were also called to process the crime scene for additional evidence, including surveillance camera footage from the motel.

Based on information gathered from witnesses at the scene, evaluation of the crime scene and a review of surveillance footage, detectives identified two individuals believed connected to the victim.

39-year old Marc Valcarengi, homeless of Chico, was identified as the suspect in this investigation. A 22-year old female was identified as a person wanted for questioning. With the assistance of the Butte County District Attorney, Chico Police Detectives obtained a search warrant for a room at the Safari Inn which had been recently

occupied by Valcarengi, as well as a warrant for his arrest. On the morning of Thursday, July 13, 2017, detectives served the search warrant in the room seeking evidence related to the case.

Several hours later, the Chico Police Target Team located the female being sought for questioning. She was questioned by detectives and later released with no charges.

“This is the first homicide we have had in the City of Chico in over two years,” said Police Chief Michael O’Brien. “While tragic that this incident occurred, it is gratifying that our officers and detectives were able to identify and obtain a warrant for a suspect in less than twenty-four hours. Our detectives worked diligently to offer that consolation to the victim and her family.”

The identity of the female victim is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Detectives continue investigating the case in efforts to locate Valcarengi. If you know the suspect or his whereabouts you are asked to contact the Chico Police Detective Bureau Tip Line 530.897.5899, or 530.895.4911.

***Photo Attached**

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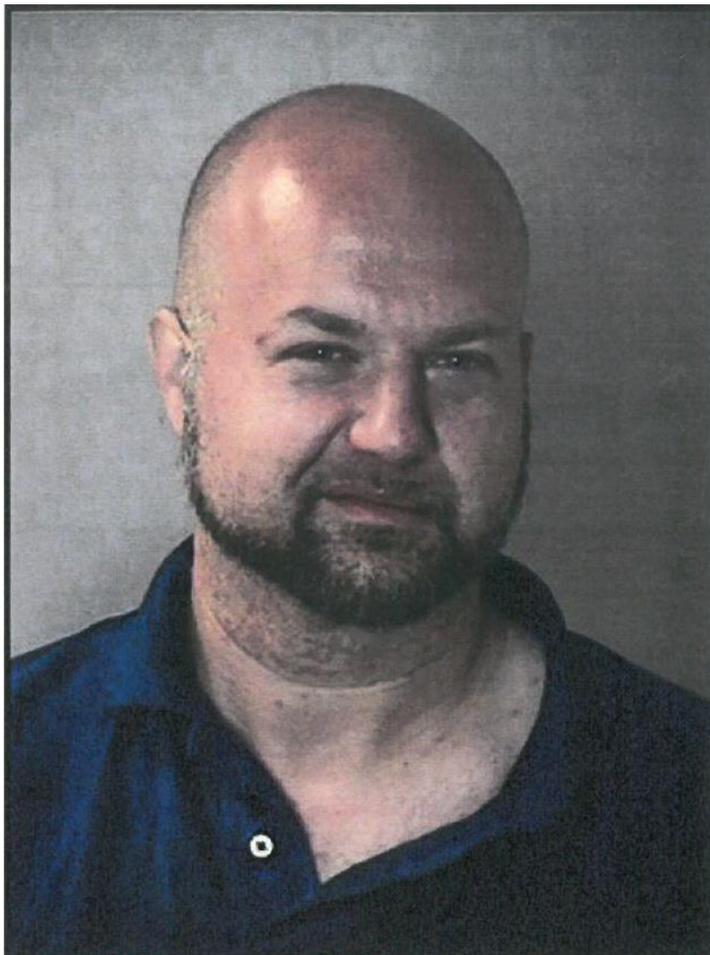


Photo: Marc Valcarengi