



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 11/7/2013
Time: 12:30 p.m.

News Release

One Suspect Arrested, Another Still at Large after a High Speed Chase **The Parolee is Also Wanted in Connection with a Stabbing**

Santa Maria- The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office is searching for a parolee wanted in connection with a stabbing that occurred just after midnight, on November 6, outside of the Chumash Casino. The victim, a Nipomo resident, was stabbed several times while inside a vehicle on the Indian Reservation. He also had his cell phone and wallet stolen. The victim, who was left on the roadway by the suspects, went to the lobby of the Chumash Casino for help and was transported by paramedics to a local hospital with serious injuries. Sheriff's Deputies searched for the suspect vehicle and the two subjects wanted in connection with the stabbing but were not able to locate them.

Through the course of the investigation, Sheriff's Detectives located the suspects in the Santa Maria area. At around, 5:45 p.m. last night, November 6, the suspects were discovered driving westbound on East Donovan Road. The vehicle, which was also reported stolen, turned onto Highway 101 and headed northbound. Sheriff's Deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the driver refused to pull over and a pursuit ensued. The pursuit reached speeds of more than 100 miles an hour, went on and off Highway 101 both northbound and southbound and crossed into San Luis Obispo County. At that point, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Deputies came in to assist.

The pursuit was called off due to public safety concerns when the suspect exited 4th Avenue in Grover Beach. The driver hit a parked vehicle at 4th Avenue and Park View and then the suspects abandoned the vehicle in the area of 6th Avenue and Park View. The suspects fled and a foot chase ensued. The female suspect, 29 year old Cherie Rodriguez of Arroyo Grande, was apprehended and arrested. Law enforcement personnel searched the area for the male suspect, 35 year old Osvaldo Hernandez of Santa Maria for several hours but were not able to locate him.

Hernandez is a documented gang member who has a history of violence. He is on parole for assault with a deadly weapon, violation of a criminal street gang act and being a felon in possession of a firearm. If you see Hernandez, do not approach him but call 9-1-1. If you have any information

regarding Hernandez' whereabouts or the crimes he is associated with, please contact the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Detectives Bureau in Santa Maria at 805-934-6170 or to leave an anonymous tip call 805-681-4171.

Rodriguez is charged with robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. She is in custody at the Santa Barbara County Jail and is being held on \$150,000 bail.



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