

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: DATE 12-27-10
TIME: TIME 3:10 PM

SHERIFF'S DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING HOMICIDE

Modesto, CA – Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department investigators are conducting a homicide investigation after finding a 46-year-old Modesto man injured inside of a residence on Friday afternoon.

Deputies and emergency medical technicians responded to a home located in the 300 block of South Santa Cruz in Modesto at approximately 3:49 p.m., as a caller reported that an unknown intruder was inside of the house and was possibly intoxicated. Law enforcement personnel checked the interior and found an unresponsive male lying on a bed with unspecified injuries. Paramedics rushed the man to a local area hospital; however, they were unable to resuscitate him and he died from his injuries. Detectives within the Robbery and Homicide Unit of the Sheriff's Department responded in order to further the investigation.

The victim was identified as Modesto resident, Tevan Nicholson. Authorities have been able to determine Nicholson's cause of death; however, the case is still open and details specific to his injuries will not be released at this time. Detectives continue to actively follow leads and are identifying and interviewing all possible witnesses.

Dennis James Boyles, 42, of Modesto was the last known person to have any contact with the victim before his death. Boyles still needs to be interviewed and has been classified as a "person of interest". He once lived at the same residence on S. Santa Cruz where the victim was initially found. Results of a forensic autopsy and toxicology tests were not available at the writing of this press release. A photograph of Dennis Boyles obtained through the California Department of Motor Vehicles has been attached for the reader's convenience.

Anyone with information to help further this investigation, or who may know of the whereabouts of Boyles, is urged to contact Det. Darwin Hatfield. He can be reached at 525-7100. Those that wish to remain anonymous may call Stanislaus County Area Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-602-7463 or locally at 209-521-4636.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).