

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

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



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE August 22, 2007
TIME 1:00 PM

MODESTO MAN DIES FROM GUNSHOT WOUND

Charges Upgraded to Homicide, One Suspect in Custody

MODESTO, CA- The Modesto man who was shot early Sunday morning has died as a result of his injury. Kevin Argueta, 22 Modesto, was removed from life support and pronounced dead at a local hospital on Tuesday evening. Just before 2:00am Sunday morning, Argueta went with some friends to a taco truck in the 1200 block of Crowslanding Road in Modesto. Several men approached Argueta and his friends and asked them what gang they belonged to. When they said that they were not gang members an argument ensued and one of the men started shooting.

"This was a senseless act of violence," said sheriff's detective Frank Navarro. "It does not appear that Argueta or his friends were involved in gangs." Argueta was transported to a local hospital with a gunshot wound to the upper body. He was in critical condition and unable to breathe on his own. Another man who was with Argueta was wounded as well. He was treated for a gunshot wound that did not appear to be life threatening. The suspects fled the scene in a white sedan that was described as being similar to a Honda.

Witnesses at the scene were able to identify two of the suspects. Initially detectives were told that one of the suspects was Michael Pack, 20 Modesto. During follow-up investigations, it was determined that Michael Pack was not involved in this homicide. His brother, Steven Anthony Pack, 18 of Modesto, was identified as the person involved in the shooting. Deputies arrested Steven Pack this morning in South Modesto.

A second suspect was identified as José Barajas, 19 of Modesto. A third man who witnesses only knew as "Nick" has been identified as Nicolas Castaneda, 18 of Modesto. "These charges have officially been upgraded to homicide," said Navarro. "It is very important that we find these guys and get them off the streets." Both Barajas and Castaneda are wanted for murder and they should be considered armed and dangerous.

This is the ninth homicide for Sheriff's detectives since the beginning of the year.

There was no photo available of Barajas at the time of this release. He is described as a Hispanic male, 5'5" tall, 150 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to call detective Navarro at (209) 525-7086. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this release, contact Sheriff's Department spokesman, deputy Tom Letras at (209) 652-0134.