

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**
Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: 9-13-10
TIME: 4:00 pm

RIVERBANK HOMICIDE SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN REDDING

Redding, CA – Two outstanding homicide suspects wanted in connection with the murder of Chaz Bettencourt were arrested Monday afternoon in Redding, CA. Deputies from the Shasta County Sheriff's Department spotted a subject matching the description of Daniel Pantoja, 18, in the area of Clear Creek and Westside Road, Redding. The subject fled into a nearby house after seeing police in the area.

Knowing Pantoja was wanted on homicide charges, members of the Redding Police Department and Shasta County Sheriff's Department surrounded the residence. At the conclusion of the incident, both Pantoja and Turlock Diaz, 14, a second homicide suspect, were located inside the home and were taken into custody.

Pantoja and Diaz are being held in Shasta County detention facilities and are awaiting transport to Stanislaus County where they face charges of homicide, attempted carjacking and criminal gang enhancements.

The third suspect in the case, Jah-Kari Phyll, 15, was arrested on 8-12-10 and is currently being held in the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall, Modesto, CA.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective McQueary at (209) 525-7099. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636. Tipsters can also e-mail tips at <http://www.modestopolice.com/CrimeStoppers>, or text them to CRIMES (274637) by typing "Tip704" plus the message. Tipsters are eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Andrew Winter (209) 652-0300, awinter@stanislaussheriff.com.