

Tehama County Sheriff's Office

22840 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, Ca 96080
(530) 529-7900

Dave Hencratt, Sheriff-Coroner

Phil Johnston, Assistant Sheriff

PRESS INFORMATION

UPDATED RELEASE

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Attempted Robbery, Kidnap, Homicide **CASE NUMBER:** 19-00209

GENERAL LOCATION: 3245 Hwy 99 W, Corning, CA

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at about 6:12 pm

VICTIM(s) NAME: Enrigue Santamaria Hispanic Male **AGE:** 48

 Maria Isabel Valencia Santamaria Hispanic Female **AGE:** 44

 Austreberto Rafael Santamaria Hispanic Male **AGE:** 23

ADDRESS: 3245 Hwy 99 W, Corning, CA 96021

SUSPECTS ARRESTED:

1. **SERGIO JONATHAN BRANDT-CARDENAS** DOB: 11/04/1987
MELVINDALE, MICHIGAN

CHARGES:

**Criminal Conspiracy
Kidnapping
Attempted Robbery**

Bail: \$150,000.00

2. **MICHELLE VARGAS** DOB: 11/12/1998
MELVINDALE, MICHIGAN

CHARGES:

**Criminal Conspiracy
Kidnapping
Attempted Robbery**

Bail: \$150,000.00

3. **JOSE ANICETO CARDENAS-MANZO** DOB: 01/27/1974 AKA "PEPE"
MADERA, CALIFORNIA

CHARGES:

**Criminal Conspiracy
Kidnapping to commit Robbery
Attempted Robbery**

Bail: \$150,000.00

SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED NOT IN CUSTODY:

1. LUIS FERNANDO HERNANDEZ RANGEL DOB: 05/29/1979 AKA "SINALOA"
MADERA, CALIFORNIA
2. REGULO GIRON MORALES DOB: 09/29/1971 AKA "MIGUEL"
MADERA, CALIFORNIA

DECEASED SUSPECT(S) IDENTIFIED: Killed at scene.

1. DANIEL "AK" HERNANDEZ (AGE 23)
 2. ADRIAN GUTIERREZ (AGE 19)
- BOTH FROM MADERA, CALIFORNIA

SUSPECT'S VEHICLE: WHITE 2007, DODGE CHARGER DISPLAYING MICHIGAN LICENSE PLATE DZP3978
RECOVERED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

SUMMARY: On Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at about 6:12 pm, deputies responded to a report of shots fired in the 3000 block of Hwy 99 W, in the Corning area of Tehama County. The area was immediately flooded by responding officers from the Corning Police Department, The California Highway Patrol and the Tehama County Sheriff's Office. Upon their arrival, deputies located two gunshot victims. The victims were located on the ground in the carport area of the residence and were pronounced dead at the scene.

Early reports indicated there were multiple shots fired from this area. Deputies arrived within 13 minutes of the initial call and the scene was secured. An immediate search of the residence and surrounding grounds was conducted by first responding officers assisted by the CHP helicopter. The three victims were isolated and were not physically injured during the incident.

Detectives from the Tehama County Sheriff's Office were called to the scene and are conducting the investigation.

SETTING ASIDE THE PREVIOUSLY RELEASED INFORMATION: We have discovered the following:

The original claim that Austreberto "Rafael" Santamaria shot the robbery suspects with one of their own pistols was untrue. He lied about using his own gun because he was concerned his gun was not registered to him, and he did not want to get into trouble for that.

He told detectives that after breaking free from two of the robbers, he ran into his residence to get his pistol in an effort to defend himself and his parents. He was followed by one or two of the robber(s) one of which was armed with a pistol. He grabbed his loaded .40 Springfield semi-auto pistol, causing the chasing robber(s) to flee, Austreberto firing one shot as they fled the interior of his home.

Austreberto exited to the carport where his father was being held by two men. He immediately shot both men in the head. This caused the additional robbers to flee.

Austreberto's mother then called 911 to report the shooting. However Austreberto's father, Rafael Santamaria removed 63 pounds of processed marijuana from the residence and stashed it on a neighbor's property prior to the arrival of Law Enforcement. Detectives located an additional 20 pounds of processed marijuana at the residence. All the marijuana was seized as evidence.

Checking local area businesses and a host of surveillance videos throughout the area, the investigative unit assigned to the case located video footage of the white Dodge Charger used in the robbery. Detectives were able to identify two of the occupants as **SERGIO BRANDT-CARDENAS** and **MICHELLE VARGAS**.

Detectives were able to establish that the white Dodge Charger with **BRANDT- CARDENAS** and **VARGAS** had been in the Madera California area preceding the robbery in Corning.

Detectives established that on the day of the robbery, **VARGAS** rented a "Penske" box truck and drove it Corning just prior to the robbery.

Both **BRANDT-CARDENAS** and **VARGAS** were subsequently identified by witnesses present during the robbery attempt.

Arrest warrants were issued out of the Superior Court County of Tehama for **BRANDT-CARDENAS** and **VARGAS** charging them with the listed violations.

On February 01, 2019 at about 9:11 PM, Detectives tracked the couple to a gas station in Elsinore, Utah. Detectives contacted the Sevier County Sheriff's Office in Utah. The white Dodge Charger was stopped by Sevier County Sheriff's Deputies, **BRANDT-CARDENAS** and **VARGAS** was taken into custody without incident. A loaded Smith & Wesson 9 mm pistol was located in the vehicle and later turned over to Tehama County Sheriff's Detectives.

The white Dodge Charger was towed as evidence.

Detectives from the Tehama County Sheriff's office traveled to the Sevier County Jail on February 02, 2019. Both **BRANDT-CARDENAS** and **VARGAS** were interviewed. Detectives also recovered additional evidence linking the two to the robbery from their vehicle.

The investigation continued with efforts to identify all those involved in the robbery. Detectives have identified **JOSE ANICETO CARDENAS-MANZO** from Madera California as a participant.

On February 19, 2019 a warrant for the arrest of **JOSE ANICETO CARDENAS-MANZO DOB: 01/27/1974** was issued by the Superior Court, County of Tehama charging him with the listed charges.

On February 21, 2019, Detectives from the Tehama County Sheriff's Office traveled to Madera California. At about 1:20 PM, the detectives located **JOSE ANICETO CARDENAS-MANZO** at his Madera home. He was taken into custody without incident.

Detectives learned that the purpose for renting the Penske truck was that the robbers were expecting to steal about 900 lbs. of processed marijuana, with an estimated street value of about three million dollars.

These arrest are the result of good old fashioned police work with the insertion of advanced technology used to identify and track the suspects in the days following the home invasion robbery, to being able to track their movements and actions leading up to the home invasion robbery.

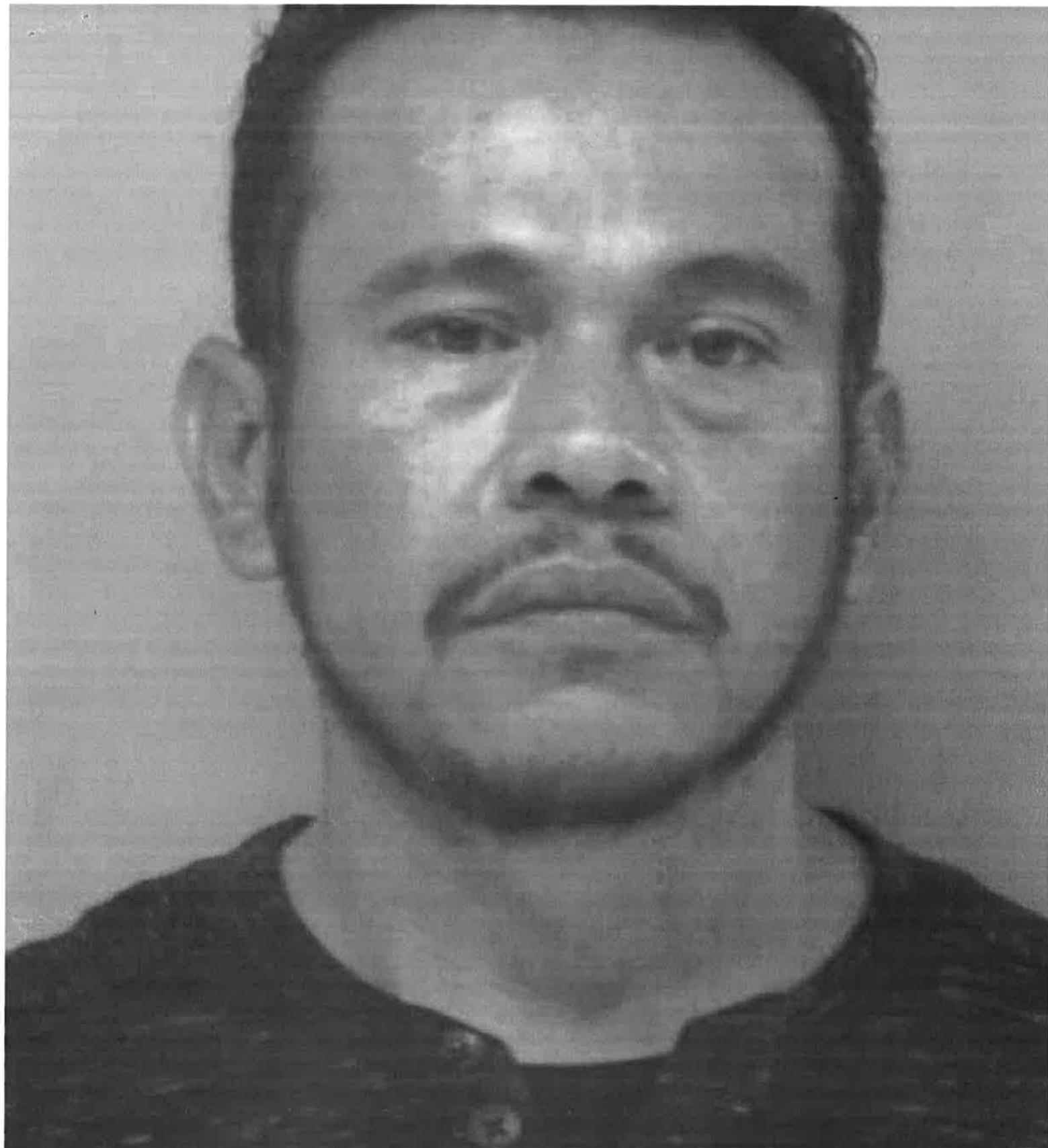
Detectives have also identified **LUIS FERNANDO HERNANDEZ RANGEL AKA: SINALOA** and **REGULO GIRON MORALES AKA: MIGUEL** as being directly involved in the planning of the robbery and actively participated in the home invasion robbery. We are seeking warrants for their arrest.

REGULO GIRON MORALES likes to use his twin brother's name of "Miguel" when conducting criminal activity.

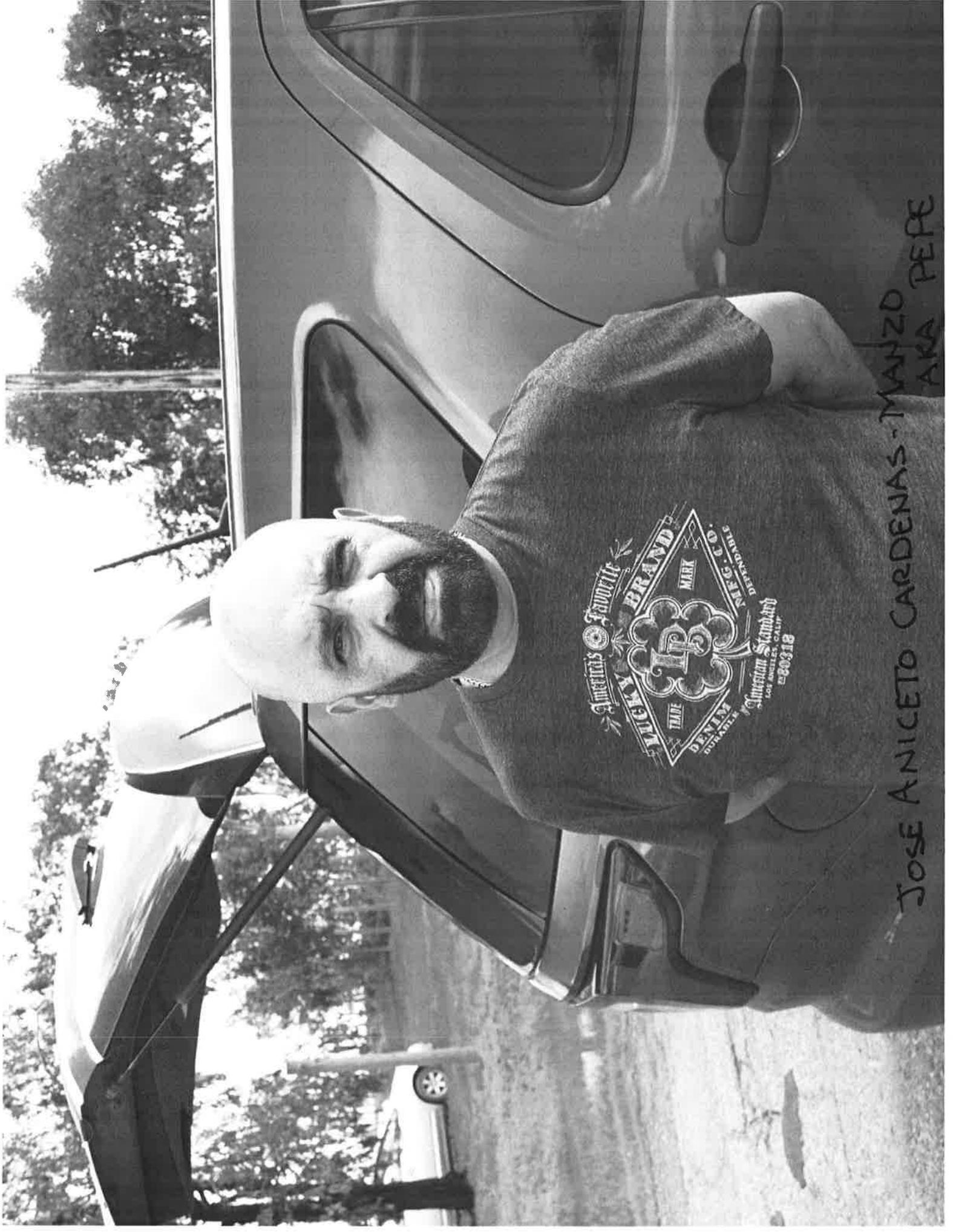
The investigative team has consulted with the District Attorney's Office throughout the investigation and continues to do so.

Anyone having information about this case should contact the Tehama County Sheriff's Office at (530) 529-7920 or at 22840 Antelope Blvd. Red Bluff, CA 96080

Reporting Officer: Phil Johnston, Assistant Sheriff



LUIS FERANDO HERNANDEZ RANGEL
AKA SINALOA



Americas Fabuette
TRADE MARK
DENIM DURABLE
American Standard
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
E20318

JOSE ANICETO CARDENAS - MANZO PEPE
AKA PEPE

64

62

60

8

6

54

VAGAS, MICHELLE

Sevier County Sheriff's Office

Number: 139302

70

68

66

64

62

60

58

BRANDT-CARDENA, SERGIO JONATHAN
Sevier County Sheriff's Office
Number: 139301

REGULO GIRON MORALES

AKA MIGUEL

