

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE: 10/31/12

RELEASED By: Sgt. Jason Hail/ Felony Investigations Unit

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SEE BELOW FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON ARRESTS MADE IN THIS CASE

On October 25, 2012 at approximately 6:36 PM, the Butte County Sheriff's Office received a report of a shooting that had just occurred on Midway at Hagen Lane in Chico. The caller said that suspects had shot at him and his vehicle from behind and then fled northbound on Midway. The victim's vehicle was occupied by two adult's one female and one male, neither was injured.

Deputies arrived three to four minutes later and searched the area for the vehicle with negative results. It appeared that the suspects had used a high-powered rifle. It is believed that this incident is possible gang related.

Anyone with information about the suspect or suspect vehicle in this case please call the Butte County Sheriff's Office.

#####UPDATED PRESS RELEASE#####

The Butte County Sheriff's Office Gang Unit was assigned the above investigation on October 25, 2012. As a result, detectives served two search warrants and made five arrests, recovering the high powered rifle suspected of being used by the suspects in this gang related shooting.

Two adults, identified as Jose Serrato Avila (age 19) and Nicholas John Lewis (age 18) were arrested; three juveniles ages 14, 16, and 17 years old were also arrested. All were charged with two counts of attempted murder, shooting at an occupied motor vehicle, criminal conspiracy and the street gang enhancement. All individuals are from Chico. The juveniles are being held without bail at Butte County Juvenile Hall. The adults, Avila and Lewis were booked into Butte County Jail, Oroville with a bail amount of \$2,560,000.