

# BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH  
SHERIFF-CORONER**



**DATE** : December 19, 2012  
**RELEASED BY** : Sgt. Jason Hail, Felony Investigations Unit  
**CONTACT #** : 530-538-7671

**Media Liaison: Miranda Bowersox (530)990-6949**

*See Below for updated press release regarding this investigation:*

On August 28, 2012, detectives from the Butte County Sheriff's Office served a search warrant at an address on Lower Gulch Rd, Yankee Hill, CA. While serving the search warrant, deputies located a butane honey oil lab, several firearms, a stolen vehicle and methamphetamine. During the search of the property, detectives located an area consisting of freshly disturbed dirt and a foul odor. The area was excavated and a deceased human body was recovered from a grave.

At autopsy, the cause of death was determined to be from a gunshot wound. Shortly thereafter, detectives were able to use fingerprints to identify the victim as David Groves Jr, (Age 26) from Stockton, CA. Groves was reported missing to Stockton Police in March, 2012.

One confirmed suspect has been identified as Paul Edward Moreno (DOB: 04/14/1978), from Stockton, CA. An arrest warrant charging one count of murder has been issued as well as a felony warrant charging Paul Moreno with one count of Manufacturing a Controlled Substance, Cultivation and Sales of Marijuana, Felon in Possession of Ammunition, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Vehicle Theft.

**Paul Moreno is described as a white male adult, 5'9", 175lbs, black hair and brown eyes. Paul Moreno is considered armed and dangerous. If anyone has information on his whereabouts, do not confront him but call 911 and provide his description and location.**

**Anyone with information is asked to contact Butte County Sheriff's Office Detective Ryan Gsell at 530-538-7036 or 530-538-7671.**

**UPDATED INFORMATION:**

**Detectives from the Butte County Sheriff's Office have confirmed through the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in Missouri that the suspect, Paul Edward Moreno committed suicide by firearm on November 11, 2012. At the time of the suicide, Moreno was still wanted for the murder of David Groves Jr. and had fled California in an attempt to avoid capture.**

**An investigation into the activities of those involved with Moreno before and after the murder is still being conducted.**