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MAN ARRAIGNED ON CENTERFOLDS MURDER

A Vina man was arraigned today in Butte County Superior Court on charges of murdering a young woman in the parking lot of a north Chico nightclub. Fernando Palomares, 29, of Vina, was additionally charged with using a handgun in the murder.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stem from December 30, 2021 at 11:06 p.m. when Butte County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the Centerfolds nightclub on Highway 99, north of Chico, for reports of a female with a gunshot wound. Deputies located 21-year-old Alicia Flores of Corning lying in the parking lot unresponsive. Flores did not have a pulse and CPR measures were attempted but Flores succumbed to multiple gunshot wounds at the scene.

Ramsey said evidence showed Flores had attended Centerfolds for the first time that night with her girlfriend and the girlfriend's boyfriend, Palomares. The three of them arrived there about 9:40 p.m. in a white SUV. Palomares was seen going in and out of the establishment several times, until all three walked out to the parking lot at approx. 10:36 p.m. At 11:03 p.m., the girlfriend walked back into Centerfolds and asked the clerk to call 911 because her friend had been shot. In response, a patron went out and found Flores shot and unresponsive in the backseat of the SUV.

Arriving deputies learned Palomares had been in the SUV and then ran from the vehicle shortly before his girlfriend reported the shooting. A search for Palomares began and he was found at approximately 4:30 a.m. walking near the area of Highway 99 and Rowles Road approximately seven miles from Centerfolds. Palomares was detained by deputies and subsequently arrested for the murder of Flores.

Ramsey said Palomares has been on parole since May 2021, after serving time in prison for a 2013 stabbing conviction in Chico. Palomares is scheduled to enter a plea to the murder charges on January 6, 2022. At the arraignment today, Judge Kristen Lucena ordered Palomares held without bail. Ramsey said Palomares is facing a life term in state prison on the murder charges.