



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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CHICO MAN IN COURT ON FATAL DUI CHARGES

A 31-year-old Chico man was in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon to face Vehicular Manslaughter while Intoxicated counts that may bring a life sentence in state prison.

Matthew Arias Moen, 31, Chico, was charged with two counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter while Intoxicated stemming from a high speed collision with another car carrying two young college women in their 20's. The charges also included an allegation that Moen was previously convicted of Driving under the Influence in Nevada County in 2020.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arose from a Sunday, January 30, fatal collision next to the Neal Dow Elementary School in Chico at 4:50 p.m. Ramsey said witnesses in the area saw Moen's Volvo sedan speeding north on Neal Dow Avenue at speeds over 80 miles per hour. The posted speed limit on the roadway there is 25 mph, said Ramsey. Moen's car went through a red light at the intersection with East 5th Avenue, striking a Jeep proceeding on East 5th Avenue on a green light. Ramsey said the force of the collision drove the Jeep into the garage of a residence on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Ramsey said the occupants of the Jeep were pronounced deceased at the scene. Moen was extracted from his vehicle and transported to Enloe Hospital where he was treated and released to Butte County Jail on the manslaughter charges. Ramsey said blood samples were taken from Moen at the hospital and are pending results.

Ramsey said the occupants of the Jeep were **Cassi Tejada**, 22, of Visalia and **Courtney Kendall**, 24, of Louisiana. The young women were good friends and college students due to graduate this June. Tejada was going to Chico State University and Kendall was going to Louisiana State University. Kendall had been due to fly back to Louisiana to resume her studies after visiting with Tejada on Monday, January 31.

Ramsey said his office today also received information today that Moen had been convicted of a Driving Under the Influence charge in the state of Oregon in 2016 and was wanted for failure to appear on a post-plea hearing there.

Ramsey said Superior Court Judge Michael Deems ordered Moen held without bail and continued his arraignment for entry of plea to tomorrow, February 3, 2022. Ramsey said that with the prior DUI conviction alleged to the charges of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated, Moen faces a state prison sentence of 30 years to life.

