



ERIS S. TAYLOR
SHERIFF-CORONER

MEDIA RELEASE

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| Case Number: | BG24-00146 |
| Date: | 02-06-2024 |
| Location: | Hollister High School-1220 Monterey Street, Hollister Ca 95023 |
| Type: | Burglary, Two Counts Animal Cruelty, Conspiracy and Grand Theft |

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On February 6, 2024, San Benito County Sheriff Deputies responded to Hollister High School's Ag Barn, located on the south campus portion of Hollister High School, concerning a burglary and animal cruelty incident. It had been discovered by High School staff, that during the nighttime hours, suspect(s) had entered the high school's ag building, which houses the livestock for the school's Future Farmers of America (F.F.A) Program. The suspect(s) entered the separated goat pen and pig pen areas, killing both a goat and a pig, The suspect(s) took one of the school's wheel barrels to haul the carcass of the pig from the campus, and leaving the goat's carcass behind.

The high school was equipped with substantial security measures, which indicated the suspect(s) had fled south of the high school campus towards the riverbed. Sheriff Office Deputies, Detectives, assisted by Investigators from the San Benito County District Attorney's Office and Hollister Police Department Officers, canvassed the section of the riverbed the suspect(s) were last seen going towards. During the canvas of the riverbed, Sheriff Deputies, and Investigators from the DA Office located a makeshift homeless encampment, encountering a male suspect, who fit the physical descriptors of the involved suspect(s) captured on the school's surveillance cameras. The suspect was confirmed on probation, being open to search and seizure. Deputies and investigators further found in the suspect's encampment clothing consistent with the clothing worn by the suspect during the incident. Deputies and Investigators further found unexpended firearm ammunition and a quantity of drugs, both of which the suspect on probation is not permitted to have in possession.

Deputies and Investigators searched the surrounding area of the encampment and located the pig's carcass hanging from a tree a short distance from the encampment, along with the stolen Hollister High School's wheelbarrow. Two suspects were subsequently taken into custody and booked into the San Benito County Jail.

The San Benito County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Hollister Police Department and the San Benito County District Attorney's Office for their efforts and assistance it was because of the cooperation that allowed the Sheriff's Office to locate the property and suspects just twelve hours after the incident occurred. The Hollister Police Department's deployment of their Drone in this investigation was most helpful, as it quickly assisted personnel with determining where to focus our personnel's focus and efforts.

We stand committed with this community to protect our community and its institutions and recognized the loss of the goat and pig was far more substantial than just cost, in those students within the F.F.A worked hard fostering the lost goat and pig.