

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 31, 2009

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVES MAKE ARRESTS IN MURDER CASE WITHIN FOUR DAYS OF OCCURANCE

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio today announced the arrest of three suspects in the murder of 63 year old Douglas Engstler that occurred less than a week ago at Engstler's residence at an isolated area in Cave Creek, Arizona.

"I would like to commend my deputies who were able to make these arrests within days of this murder occurring" Sheriff Arpaio says.

Deputies responded Tuesday, August 25th to Douglas Engstler's nearly 3,000 square foot home located at 5486 East El Sendero Rd. after receiving a phone call from Engstler's son who found him dead inside the residence. Engstler was discovered with his hands and feet bound behind his back with electrical tape.

Detectives later traced the suspects back to a credit card belonging to Engstler that was being used by two of the suspects at a near by gas station.

Four days later on August 29th, deputies arrested 32 year old Robert Thomas Pleikhardt and 43 year old Kathleen Ann Madden whom both admitted to their involvement in the death of Douglas Engstler.

Last night, deputies also arrested 23 year old Corion Babers as a suspect in the murder.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

All three suspects have been booked into the 4th Avenue Jail on first degree murder, burglary, and theft charges.

Ten murders have been reported in the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office's jurisdiction this year compared to the 17 reported by this time last year suggesting a 42% decrease. Of those ten murders, six have been cleared.

“This serves as a warning to those out there considering committing burglary or any other type of crime for that matter that these situations can easily escalate to murder” Arpaio says.

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