



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4941

Type of Incident- Drive Thru Robber arrested
Case no: 11-0962
Date/time: 12/18/2011 0008 hrs
Location: In and Out Burger, 2050 Business Lane.
Suspect: Vanauken, James Joseph Age: 31 of Magalia
Charges: 664/211 PC- Attempted Robbery

Case summary:

On 12/18/2011 at 0008 hrs, Chico Police Dispatchers received a telephone call from an employee at the In and Out Burger in Chico, reporting a robbery attempt in progress. The employee reported that a male subject, (later identified as James Vanauken) had pulled into the drive-thru and ordered a cup of water. When Vanauken reached the drive up window, he received his cup of water and then told the clerk not to make any sudden movements and to put all the money in a bag. The suspect had his hand concealed at his waist as if trying to indicate that he had a weapon.

The clerk stepped away from the window and alerted his manager. They phoned Police to report the incident and were able to provide a license plate number and suspect vehicle description (green Dodge pick-up.) The suspect waited in the drive thru for almost two minutes and then left. Officer Dale Prorise spotted the suspect vehicle leaving the area near 20th and Forest Ave. Officers conducted a high risk traffic stop and detained the driver and sole occupant, James Vanauken. He was identified as the person who had attempted to rob the In and Out Burger.

While Officers were handling this investigation, they learned of two similar robberies which had taken place in Oroville within the hour with the same M.O. Oroville Police responded with witnesses and were able to confirm that Vanauken had been responsible for drive thru robberies at a Taco Bell and a Sonic Burger just an hour earlier.

Vanauken was booked into the Butte County Jail on Robbery charges from both the Chico and Oroville cases.

For media inquiries, please contact Sgt. Rob Merrifield at 897-4941

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Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Sgt. Rob Merrifield

Date/Time: 12/19/2011 0915 hrs