



**Los Gatos**

**Monte Sereno**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Jamie Field, Chief of Police**

# PRESS RELEASE

**Day:** Tuesday

**Date:** January 16, 2024

**Time:** 1500 hours

**Original:**

**Update:**  **No.**

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**Los Gatos, CA**--- The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department has arrested John Maxey Yeager (56 years old) for the murder of his wife, YingYing "Dawn" Yu (40 years old). Both were residents of Los Gatos.

On January 8, 2024, the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department was alerted that Dawn Yu had not contacted her employer since prior to New Year's Day, and she could not be reached. Investigators sought information through various means to determine Yu's welfare and whereabouts. Information provided by Yu's husband, John Yeager was found to be inconsistent with information obtained by Officers. During the investigation, evidence was uncovered related to a domestic violence incident that occurred the evening of December 31, 2023 with Yu as the victim.

On January 10, the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police organized a multidisciplinary team of experts from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory, the Santa Clara County Special Enforcement Team, the Santa Clara County Regional Enforcement Allied Computer Team, Santa Clara County Search and Rescue, and the Santa Clara County Department of Children's and Family Services. Members of the team worked collaboratively around the clock to further investigate this case and ensure the safety of the children within the home.

On January 11, John Yeager was arrested and booked into the Santa Clara County jail for charges related to the domestic violence incident on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Following the arrest, the investigation continued as additional evidence developed concerning foul play related to Yu's welfare.

On January 13, information discovered by the investigative team and aided by the community along Summit Road, a remote area of the Santa Cruz Mountains was identified where John Yeager had traveled earlier this year. This led investigators to locate possible human remains in the Santa Cruz Mountains, believed to be that of Dawn Yu. The identification of the remains is pending confirmation by the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner.

The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department is grateful for the assistance of its partners including the United States Department of Homeland Security, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory, the Santa Clara County Special Enforcement Team, the Santa Clara County Regional

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Enforcement Allied Computer Team, Santa Clara County Search and Rescue, the Santa Clara County Department of Children's and Family Services, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in Santa Cruz County.

We appreciate the assistance, trust and confidence placed in us by Dawn Yu's community, colleagues and family throughout the investigation and express our deepest condolences to all who knew Dawn Yu.

John Yeager remains in custody at the Santa Clara County Jail with additional charges related to the murder of his wife. This remains an ongoing investigation and anyone that may have additional information is asked to call Detective Mike Birley at 408-827-3219 or email [police@losgatosca.gov](mailto:police@losgatosca.gov).

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