

Fortuna Police Department

Posted on: October 26, 2016

Subject who escaped custody in 1992 apprehended by Fortuna Police



On October 25, 2016 at about 3 pm Fortuna Police were dispatched to a report of a male subject, with a child on his shoulders, walking through a parking lot in the 3300 block of Renner Dr., pulling on numerous parked vehicle door handles attempting to gain entry.

A Fortuna Police Officer responded and arrived in the area along with Cal Fire Peace Officers who responded to the call to assist. The officers located the subject in the parking lot area of the 3300 block of Renner Dr. Upon contact the subject refused to provide officers with his identity and cooperate with their investigation. The subject began to walk away from the officers and refused to listen to commands. The subject partially complied, stopping and sitting on a bench but he continued to not provide his identity and remove the child from his shoulders. The subject made comment that his wife was in a nearby doctor's office. Officers located the subject's reported wife who was also uncooperative and refused to identify the subject. The subject's reported wife took control of the child.

After many attempts to gain the identity of the male subject or ascertain why he was attempting to gain entry to several vehicles; and for safety reasons, the officers informed the subject that he was being detained.

As officers went to place the subject in handcuffs, the subject attempted to flee and became aggressive and physically resistive with officers. The officers were able to secure the subject in handcuffs and take him into custody for his actions.

The subject had no identification with him and refused and continued to refuse to identify himself.

Due to the subject's aggressive actions the Fortuna Police Officer received an abrasion to his forehead, a cut to his left hand and his uniform was torn, while attempting to take the subject into custody.

The subject was transported and booked as a "John Doe" into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility for Resisting Arrest and Causing injury to a Peace Officer. The subject was fingerprinted to ascertain his identity.

The subject was identified as George Louis Scavelli, age 49. Scavelli had an outstanding arrest warrant from the US Postal Inspector's Office. Scavelli had escaped police custody in San Francisco in March 1992 to avoid prosecution for the distribution of dangerous drugs.