

Hobbs woman murdered

Store clerk abducted, body found on west side

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HOBS NEWS-SUN

Police reported Wednesday that 26-year-old Elizabeth Garcia was abducted early Wednesday morning and murdered.

Someone abducted the young woman between 2:24 a.m. and 3 a.m. from her job at the Allsup's located at 5312 N. Lovington Hwy. directly across from New Mexico Junior College, police said.

Although investigators have not yet determined a time of death, Garcia was apparently murdered shortly thereafter. Police report receiving a

phone call from a motorist who found her body at 2:03 p.m. in a field just south of the intersection of Sanger Street and French Drive.

Detectives have not yet determined a cause of death but Capt. Donnie Graham, with the Hobbs Police Department, said there were "definitely signs of trauma."

At the time of her abduction Garcia was the only employee in the store.

According to the police report, 2:24 a.m. was the last time entered on a receipt in the cash register.

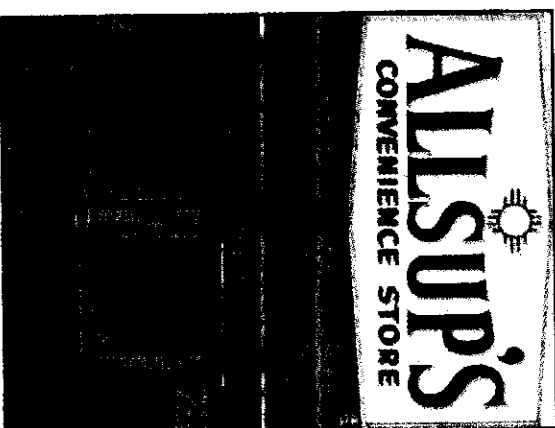
The police report noted that the woman's boyfriend Jaime Pacheco, stopped at the Allsup's at 3 a.m. on his way to work in the oilfield. When the man discovered her missing, he notified police.

Graham said officers found Garcia's textbooks, backpack and other items on the counter at the store.

"Her college textbook was open on the counter as though she had been reading," Graham said.

Her car was still in the All-

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PHOTOS BY TAMMY MCKINLEY/HOBS NEWS-SUN

Murder

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sup's parking lot. He also said an undetermined amount of cash was removed from the register drawer and the panic alarm worn by clerks was also missing.

Pacheco told officers he stopped by the store on his way to work and found no one inside the store, adding that a delivery person came in and they searched the store together for Garcia. According to the report, Pacheco phoned Garcia's residence and spoke with her brother, Antonio Garcia who said she was not

home. Antonio then went to the store.

The report also notes that investigators opened a cash draw at the Allsup's and found an overring receipt that Garcia left for a Dr Pepper.

Police also report finding a receipt in the register which showed date and time Jan 16, 2002 2:24 a.m. with "No Sale" on it.

Police said that Garcia filed a shoplifting report the previous day concerning the theft of more than \$30 worth of Budweiser beer. Garcia report-

ed that at about 3 a.m. Tuesday two men entered the store and tried to purchase beer, and when Garcia told them that state law prohibited alcohol sales at that hour, one man said, "Well, we'll take it anyway." The car had Texas plates.

Anyone with information about Garcia's abduction or murder should call the Hobbs Police at 397-9265 or 397-9275.

Mark R. Fletcher may be contacted at 397-4556, ext. 133 or by email at city@leaco.net.

Handwritten note: I'm looking for Jan. 17, 2002
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