

Trailside Murders

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Body Found; Carpenter Suspect

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Authorities were tight-lipped this morning about details surrounding the discovery of the body of Heather Scaggs, a 20-year-old co-worker of murder suspect David Carpenter.

Scaggs' decomposed body was found off a little-used hiking trail in Big Basin State Park Sunday morning.

District Attorney Art Danner said today she had been shot once in the head and that Carpenter is a prime suspect in her death.

Scaggs, a San Jose woman who worked

with Carpenter at the California Trade School in Hayward, disappeared May 2.

She was last seen at a San Jose convenience store where she had gone to meet Carpenter who was going to help her buy a car in Santa Cruz, according to San Jose Police reports.

Scaggs told her roommates that she was leery of Carpenter and that they should call police if she did not return later that day, said San Jose Police.

It was that missing-person report which led local authorities to Carpenter and his eventual arrest in connection with the murder of 20-year-old Ellen Hansen and the wounding of her companion 20-year-

old Steven Russell Haertle.

Carpenter is currently in jail facing those charges. He is also a suspect in at least five killings in Marin County.

According to authorities, two hikers found Scaggs' decomposed body approximately 150 yards from Upper China Grade Road in Big Basin Park late Sunday morning.

Scaggs' body was partially covered with brush and a log, said Danner this morning. He would not comment on whether Scaggs was clothed or had been sexually molested.

Danner said the body appeared to have

been moved "perhaps from its original resting place." He would not say where authorities believed the woman had been murdered, however.

Tests were scheduled to be conducted on Scaggs' body today and Danner said he may be in a position to know if he will file charges in the case as early as Wednesday.

He would not comment on whether bullets had been found at the murder scene, but repeated his statement that several tests were being conducted in connection with the murder.

Carpenter, a balding 51-year-old printer, was arrested one week ago in

connection with the Hansen and Haertle shootings in Henry Cowell Park.

He was arraigned on charges of murder, attempted murder and special circumstances that could bring the death penalty if he is convicted. He has not entered a plea.

A gag order has been placed on authorities and attorneys in connection with the Hansen and Haertle shootings.

Some of the victims in Marin were shot in the head. One victim was stabbed to death.

No charges have been filed against Carpenter in those deaths.



Heather Scaggs