



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
February 20, 2023

VPD Report Number: 23-014468

Date/Time Occurred: February 20th, 2023 / 11:52 A.M.

Type of Incident: Homicide and Attempted Homicide

Location: 200 block of E. Main St.
500 block of N. Stevenson St.

Name of Business (if applicable):

Nash’s Steak House

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Michael Major
- 2.

54

Yes

Details: On February 20th, 2023, at approximately 11:52 A.M., officers responded to the 200 block of E. Main St. (Nash’s Steak House) for a report of an assault. Prior to the officers’ arrival, Suspect Michael Major (54yrs) had entered the business and ordered food. While Suspect Major was waiting, he began to wander around the restaurant and eventually went to the rear bar area. Victim 2, an employee, was sitting in a chair waiting for his shift to start. Suspect Major walked up behind Victim 2, removed a ten-inch sledgehammer from his person, and began striking Victim 2 to the back of his head.

Kitchen staff heard the assault and came to the bar area where they began pulling Suspect Major off of Victim 2. The kitchen staff was able to take away the sledgehammer and a knife from Suspect Major. Suspect Major was able to run out the back door of the restaurant and the kitchen staff ran after him. Suspect Major was able to run to Kaweah Health Medical Center where he was detained by security and officers.

As officers were speaking with Suspect Major about the incident at Nash’s Steak House, Suspect Major told officers they need to check a residence in the 500 block of N. Stevenson St. for an additional victim with injuries. Officers responded to the residence in the 500 block of N. Stevenson where they found Victim 1 deceased.



Violent Crime Detectives were called out and took over the investigation. Crime Lab was also called out to process the crime scenes.

Victim 2 was transported to Kaweah Health Medical Center and is in stable condition. The identity of Victim 1 is being withheld pending notification.

Suspect Major was taken into custody and will later be booked into the Tulare County Pre-Trial Facility for homicide and attempted homicide.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Detective Norman at (559) 713-4104. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the Anonymous Tip Line at (559) 713-4738.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: Patrol/VC Unit/Crime Lab

Supervisor: Sgt. A. Alvarez

