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FEATURED

Suspect apprehended in Chinese restaurant shooting

By Kayla Hardersen, Staff Writer
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Emporia P.D. personnel stand outside the suspect's trailer at 711 South Main St.

Wayne Covil, WTVR CBS 6

Two men were shot at the China Garden restaurant on Atlantic St. in Emporia around 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14. A suspect is in custody.

The Emporia Police Department was alerted to the shooting by a customer who had locked himself in the bathroom of the China Garden. Upon arriving at the restaurant, they found 67-year-old owner Te Yang and his son, Wei, 36, who had both sustained multiple gunshot wounds. Te Yang succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Wei was flown to VCU Medical Center in Richmond for treatment. Wei was able to give a statement and name Shawn Rice, 43, as the suspect. Rice allegedly shot the Yangs while attempting to take money from them. Rice had been an employee at the China Garden until he was fired around two weeks ago.

"I believe you had a disgruntled employee," said Chief Ricky Pinksaw of the Emporia Police Department. "Our prayers are with the Yang family. It's just a sad situation that occurred last night."

The Emporia P.D. executed a search warrant at 711 South Main St. on the morning of June 15 and apprehended the suspect. The mother of Rice's child turned herself in after opening the door. It is unknown at this time if she will face charges. Rice barricaded himself inside of the trailer but officers were able to bring him out peacefully and place him in custody, Chief Pinksaw said.

"Total shock," said Sharon Neigel, a frequent customer of the China Garden. "These people are very nice people. The last time I was here [Mr. Yang] told me he wanted to retire and sell the business, and now he's passed away. It's horrible."

Jackie Dickens lives in Lake Gaston, North Carolina but still makes the trip to Emporia often for Mr. Yang's hospitality and authentic Chinese food she can't find closer to home.

"People's lives are being taken for no apparent reason — nonsense," Dickens said. "If you wanted the money, ask him for it and go. But you've taken lives from families and friends and it's very hurtful."

Rice is charged with first degree murder, aggravated malicious wounding, attempted robbery and other firearm-related charges.