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## Third person arrested in Rutland murder case

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BY PATRICIA ROY

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Rody Zapata, 25, 72 Jaques Ave., Worcester, was indicted by a Worcester County grand jury last week in connection with the July 10 murder of Francis P. Spokis of Rutland.

Zapata was charged with attempted robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. He is the third person charged in the case.

James M. Rutherford, 25, of 600 Main St., Worcester, and Lee Anne Chesko, 24, of 204 Fairmont Ave., Worcester, were indicted in September on charges of murder, armed robbery, and aggravated assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. A home invasion charge was also made against Chesko.

In what may be a coincidence, police say, Zapata was arrested in Holden on July 16 after a resident called police about a man dressed in black sitting at a picnic table in the backyard of a home on Main Street.

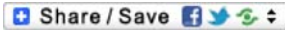
Police Chief George Sherrill said two cruisers responded to the call and Zapata was arrested on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct. At the time of the arrest, Zapata gave his address as 45 Upsala St., unit 2, Worcester.

While state police have been keeping the Holden police department updated during the investigation of Spokis's murder, his department had no notice at the time that Zapata was a person of interest in the case, Sherrill said.

The town of Holden also figured earlier in the case, when investigators said three telephone calls were made by Chesko on July 5 from the Honey Farms on Main Street to the Spokis residence.

Spokis' body was discovered on July 10 in the basement of his home at 120 Wachusett St., when his wife and daughter returned from a four-day vacation in Maine.

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