

Man Held in Laguna Hills Nurse's Death

By Bill Billiter

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A gardener who worked for a Laguna Hills nurse found murdered on July 4 was arrested Monday in connection with her death, the Orange County Sheriff's Department said.

Lt. Dick Olson said Timothy David Russell, 26, of El Toro, was booked into Orange County Jail without bail on suspicion of murdering Marulyn Haugh Lyon in her house at 24962 Wilkes Place.

Russell's arraignment is tentatively set for Wednesday in South County Municipal Court, Olson said.

Victim Lived Alone

Lyon, 49, lived alone. Her daughter went to her home and found her dead after Lyon's co-workers at Saddleback Community Hospital became alarmed when she did not show up for her shift.

An autopsy found that Lyon died of asphyxiation due to head and neck injuries, and investigators said they found evidence of a struggle in the home.

Russell was called to the sheriff's office in Santa Ana on Monday for questioning and was arrested there, Olson said.

"He (Russell) had worked for her (Lyon) at her place and she also knew him from his part-time work at Saddleback Hospital," Olson said.

Olson would not disclose specifics of the evidence that led to Russell's arrest.