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PRESS RELEASE

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“Three Strikes” Defendant Receives Life Sentence

A Humboldt County fugitive, arrested in February in Brooktrails after an 11-hour stand-off with local law enforcement, was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison Tuesday by Mendocino County Superior Court Judge Richard Henderson.

Jason Michael Frick, 37, of McKinleyville, pled guilty in August to two separate felony violations stemming from the Mendocino County incident - possessing pipe bombs and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Frick also admitted two prior strike convictions.

District Attorney David Eyster argued in favor of imposing the life sentence, calling Frick a “poster child” for three strikes punishment. Eyster noted that Frick’s criminal record included seven prior strikes convictions¹: two in Tehama County, three in Humboldt County, and two in Del Norte County. Frick also has a felony case pending in Humboldt County charging stalking, corporal injury on a cohabitant, first degree burglary, possession of controlled substances, possession of a firearm in a school zone, and other charges.

On Feb. 22, 2011, local law enforcement became aware that Frick may be hiding out in the Willits area. A warrant for Frick’s arrest had been issued after Frick failed to appear in court in Eureka. The SWAT team and other local law enforcement resources were mobilized and it was confirmed that Frick was inside a Birch Street residence. An 11-hour stand-off ensued, with Frick eventually surrendering just after 2 o’clock in the morning on Feb. 23, 2011. During the early stages of the stand-off, Frick told negotiators that he had a bomb and would not come out without defending himself. Frick also fired a shotgun into the ceiling of the residence during the stand-off, later telling negotiators that he had done so because he believed somebody had placed a laser dot on him. A bomb squad was dispatched from Humboldt County and the destructive device was detonated. That pipe bomb was found to contain nails and BB’s mixed in with explosive matter.

¹ Under the Three Strikes law, a “Strike” conviction is a prior felony conviction for a crime characterized as either serious or violent, as listed in Penal Code §§ 1192.7 and 667.5.