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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Oct. 3, 2011**

**State prison term ordered in Hopland stabbing death**

A Hopland man has been sentenced to serve 16 years to life in state prison following his conviction in Mendocino County Superior Court of second degree murder with the use of a knife.

Timothy Slade Elliott was sentenced to prison by Judge Richard Henderson this past Friday after protracted post-verdict litigation had delayed the sentencing hearing for over a year. The jury's findings of guilt were entered on August 27, 2010.

Deputy District Attorney Rayburn Killion said the Elliot case stems from a fatal stabbing in the early morning hours of Sept. 26, 2008 on the tribal lands belonging to the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. During Elliott's trial, jurors heard that when sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene at about four o'clock in the morning, they found 27-year-old Samuel Brandon Billy lying on the ground bleeding from an apparent stab wound to his abdomen. Jurors were told Billy was rushed by helicopter to Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa, but that he died of his injuries later the same day. Through the investigation work of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Elliott was later identified as the assailant and arrested.