



District Attorney Newsletter

Mendocino County

April through May 2010

Issue 9

Special points of interest:

- **Press Releases on the Website!!!**
The Mendocino County District Attorney's press releases are now on-line.
- **DDA Steve Jackson and DDA Tim Stoen** received honorable mentions and awards at the Victims' Rights Luncheon last month for their support of victims of violent crimes and protecting their rights.

RANDOM FUN FACTS

It's physically impossible for you to lick your elbow.

Did you know?

More people in China speak English than in the United States.



Parole Hearings:

- ◆ July 26th—Steven Crump

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Ukiah, CA 95482

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NEWS



Two Men Sentenced to Prison for 1st Degree Murder

On March 11, 2010, a Mendocino County jury of 8 women and 4 men in Ukiah convicted Brandon Pinola and Alva Reeves of first degree murder for the killing of Gerald Knight. The jury deliberated for one and one half days before returning verdicts.

Evidence presented at trial by Chief Deputy DA Ravitch established that Gerald Knight, a transient, was beaten about the head, sustained fractured ribs and had his throat cut in the late evening of June 13, 2008. His body was found in the weeds near an old railroad tanker parked on the tracks north of East Perkins Street the following day by a passerby.

Pinola was sentenced on April 26th to 27 years to life plus 3 years in state prison, which also included another assault case that had been pending when the murder occurred. Reeves was sentenced to 50 years to life in state prison. *(Prosecuted by CDDA Ravitch)*

CASE OUTCOMES ♦ GUILTY PLEAS ♦ TRIALS

- ◆ James Bauschelt was sentenced on April 9th to 16 months state prison for possession of marijuana for sale. *(Prosecuted by DDA Cox)*
- ◆ Curtis Bettega was sentenced on April 23rd to 2 years state prison for Felon in possession of a firearm. *(Prosecuted by DDA Hubley)*
- ◆ Laura Clark was sentenced on April 30th to 2 years state prison for Grand Theft. *(Prosecuted by DDA Stoen)*
- ◆ Juan Fernandez was found guilty of 13 out of 14 counts, some of which were First Degree Robbery, Kidnapping, Assault and First Degree Burglary. On March 30th, Fernandez was sentenced to 30 years state prison. *(Prosecuted by DDA Newman)*
- ◆ Kyle Mercer was sentenced on April 23rd to 8 months state prison for "management of location used for unlawful manufacture or storage of a controlled substance". In another case, Mercer was sentenced on April 23rd to 3 yrs state prison for "transporting and selling marijuana". *(Prosecuted by DDA Houston)*
- ◆ Sean Robey pled guilty to two counts of unlawful intercourse with a minor and sentenced to 12 years state prison on March 12th. *(Prosecuted by DDA Jackson)*
- ◆ Rex Warren pled guilty to criminal threat and was sentenced on April 30th to 3 years state prison. *(Prosecuted by DDA Larson)*
- ◆ Ron Soares was sentenced on April 13th to 2 years state prison for taking a vehicle without consent. *(Prosecuted by DDA McMenemy)*