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PRESS RELEASE

**REDDING MAN RECEIVES SEVEN AND ONE-HALF YEARS STATE PRISON FOR THE
ATTEMPTED KIDNAP AND CARJACKING OF A FORMER CLASSMATE**

Today Judge Steven Jahr sentenced a Redding man to seven years and six months in the state prison for attempting to kidnap and carjack a former classmate at Shasta College. A Superior Court jury found Joseph Duncan guilty of those crimes and two counts of assault with a knife for the February 16, 2007 attack that occurred in the parking lot of Orchard Supply Hardware on Athens Boulevard.

Duncan had been infatuated with the victim for several semesters while studying at Shasta College. After she rebuffed his romantic advances, Duncan apparently devised a scheme where he would kidnap her and take her elsewhere so he could "make her love me," according to his pre-trial statements to witnesses.

Duncan's attempt to take the victim was thwarted by her co-worker, Theodore Lidgett, who has received recognition and several awards for his heroic actions. Lidgett saw Duncan holding the victim at knife-point. Lidgett then pulled her to safety after having pushed the 10 inch hunting/survival knife away from her throat. Duncan started to stab wildly at the victim to prevent her escape, but Lidgett was able to free her.

Duncan was positively linked to his crimes by DNA left in the mask he wore during the crime. Vermut, a K-9 officer handled by RPD Officer Kip Kinneavy, found the mask, along with the knife and gloves worn by Duncan.

Duncan testified at his trial that he had been attacked by an unknown person while he walked alone by the Sacramento River Trail. He also testified that the many items found in his car less than a week after the attack, items including four dog choke collars, a pinch collar, several 10 inch spikes, a sledge hammer, a mask, gloves, a box of condoms and a voice changing machine were not meant to aid in his criminal conduct. At the sentencing hearing, the Court noted that Duncan's testimony was not believable.

The Court sentenced Duncan to four and one-half years in prison for the attempted carjacking plus an additional three years for his use of the knife, for a total of seven and one-half years, the legal

maximum sentence that could be imposed. The Court then sentenced Duncan to the maximum penalty for the attempted kidnapping four years plus one more for the use of the knife, but did not impose that time since the kidnap occurred simultaneously with the carjacking. The Court also imposed the maximum sentence for the two counts of assault with the knife, but ruled that the four years state prison for each count would be served at the same time as the seven and one-half years because of the three year knife enhancement in the carjacking count.

Duncan will have to serve 85% of the sentence before being eligible for release on parole. The victim elected not to give an impact statement to the Court, which she has the right to give under criminal law in California.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Craig Omura. The lead investigators were Corporals Al Mellon and Eric Niver of the Redding Police Department. The victim was assisted throughout the legal process by Victim-Witness Advocate Barbara Dorris.