



OFFICE OF THE  
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**August 19, 2008**

Today, a Shasta County jury found Micah Lightburner guilty of first degree murder for the April 5, 2006 killing of Valentine Pecsí. The jury also found true two special allegations involving the use of a deadly weapon and infliction of great bodily injury. The verdict came after a three-week jury trial before the Honorable William D. Gallagher.

Evidence introduced at the trial showed that Lightburner stabbed Mr. Pecsí 18 times in the head, neck and back inside the living room of Pecsí's Jones Valley home. Lightburner then fled the house, burying the murder weapon and hiding himself in a parked car on the property. Lightburner was later discovered hiding in the car by Shasta County Sheriff's crime scene technicians processing the scene. In an interview with detectives, Lightburner claimed that he was acting in self-defense.

Sentencing is set for September 24, 2008, at 1:30 pm. Lightburner is facing a sentence of 26 years to life in state prison. Redding attorney Richard Farrell represented Mr. Lightburner at trial. The case was investigated by Shasta County Sheriff's Detective Steve Grashoff, and was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Hanna. Barbara Dorris of Shasta County Victim Assistance assisted victims and witnesses throughout the trial process.