



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lunbery Pleads to Manslaughter

Today, 41-year-old Burney resident, Kristi Lyn Lunbery, pleaded no contest to the crime of Voluntary Manslaughter for the 1992 killing of her husband Charles Bateson. Lunbery also admitted in a related enhancement that she personally used a firearm in the crime.

Charles Bateson was shot in the head and killed on the morning of April 17, 1992. The murder went unsolved until December 20, 2001 when Lunbery admitted to Shasta County Sheriff's detectives that she shot Mr. Bateson with a rifle while he was asleep in their children's bedroom.

In 2004, a Shasta County jury convicted Lunbery for the murder of Charles Bateson. On July 19, 2010, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal overturned that conviction and ordered a new trial. The basis for the reversal was the trial court's exclusion of evidence that a third-party had killed Charles Bateson.

Shasta County Judge Wilson Curle accepted today's plea and will sentence Lunbery on May 5, 2011. She will receive a stipulated sentence of 11 years in prison. Lunbery has credit for 4,696 total days spent incarcerated (or 12 years and 316 days).