



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

Stephen S. Carlton
District Attorney

MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING NEWSPAPER DELIVERY DRIVER

April 10, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Deputy District Attorney: Laura Smith
(530)245-6300

Today, a Shasta County jury found Benjamin Randolph Wood, 37, guilty of two felony counts in connection with the March 26, 2012 assault of a newspaper delivery man. The defendant was found guilty of Assault with a Deadly Weapon in violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(1) and Assault with Force Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury in violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(4). Following the jury trial, Shasta County Superior Court Judge Cara Beatty found true the special allegations that the defendant suffered three prior "strike" convictions and two prior serious felony convictions.

Evidence presented at trial showed that on March 26, 2012, at approximately 4:00 a.m., Wood followed the vehicle of Willado Loyola Ramirez, a newspaper deliveryman for the Record Searchlight, as he left Wood's apartment complex. Wood believed that Ramirez was potentially the person who had burglarized his vehicle two weeks prior. Wood armed himself with a fire extinguisher and ambushed Mr. Ramirez as he sat waiting for the red signal at the intersection of Hartnell and Victor. As Mr. Ramirez sat helpless in his vehicle, Wood rushed to the open driver's side window and, without warning, repeatedly beat Mr. Ramirez in the head and face with the fire extinguisher and his fists. The force of Wood's blows also cracked Mr. Ramirez's windshield during the attack. Upon realizing that Mr. Ramirez was merely out delivering papers, Wood suspended his attack and apologized for his actions. Wood then drove Mr. Ramirez to the Shasta Regional Medical Center, where he received treatment and sutures to repair his head injury. Wood was detained by hospital security, and was arrested by Redding Police Officers following their investigation. Following his release on bond from the Shasta County Jail later the same day, Wood fled to southern California to avoid prosecution. He was arrested on his warrants in Los Angeles County in December of 2012, following a lengthy investigation into his whereabouts.

Wood faces a potential sentence of 35 years to life at his sentencing, scheduled for June 21, 2013, before the Honorable Judge Cara Beatty.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Laura Smith and investigated by Officers Jason Rhoads and Jonathon Sheldon of the Redding Police Department.