



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS PLUS 25 YEARS TO LIFE FOR
ASSAULTING NEWSPAPER DELIVERY DRIVER**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Today, the Honorable Judge Cara Beatty sentenced Benjamin Randolph Wood, 37, to 10 years plus 25 years to life for two felony counts in connection with the March 26, 2012 assault of a newspaper delivery man. A Shasta County jury found the defendant guilty of one count of Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and one count of Assault with Force Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury on April 10, 2013.

Following the jury trial, the court found true the special allegations that the defendant suffered three prior "strike" convictions and two prior serious felony convictions. The defendant's prior "strike" convictions include two Robbery convictions stemming from two separate robberies which occurred in 1994, and a conviction for Willful Discharge of a Firearm in a Negligent Manner which occurred while he was on parole in 1997, following an incident where he shot an illegal firearm during a fight in an apartment complex.

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 armed himself with a fire extinguisher and ambushed Mr. Ramirez as he sat in his vehicle at an intersection. 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 caused Mr. Ramirez to suffer a head wound and also cracked Mr. Ramirez's windshield during the attack. Wood was arrested by Redding Police Officers that day. 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 culminating in an incident where he was reportedly seen wearing a ski mask and carrying a gun outside his estranged wife's residence.

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