



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Man Sentenced to 25 to life in Prison for Murder

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fernando Sanchez Rosales, 22, of Corning was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison this morning by the Honorable Judge Monica Marlow in Department 8 of the Shasta County Court. Rosales was convicted by jury of the beating death of Artis McHugh Jr. on June 17, 2016 after a six week trial. He was also convicted of first degree residential burglary. Several jurors returned to view the sentencing.

Shasta County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the victim's house on October 21, 2014 to do a welfare check on the victim who had not been seen since October 10, 2014. The victim's front window was broken and there was blood on the sidewalk and on his door. His television was missing from the house. They found the body of the victim in his garage and he appeared to have been there for over a week. The victim was beaten very badly, suffering seven rib fractures on one side and three rib fractures on the other. The victim also had a laceration to his head and a defensive left wrist fracture. The victim's injuries to his chest and upper body were consistent with stomping and kicking.

Sheriff's Detectives identified Fernando Rosales who was in the Tehama County Jail after having tried to sell the victim's stolen SUV on October 13, 2014. Rosales's DNA was located on the rock that was thrown through the victim's window. Rosales and the victim had an altercation on October 8, 2014 where Rosales punched the victim in the face and drove away in the victim's SUV. Detectives located several items that the victim had in his possession on October 8th in the possession of Rosales or his relatives as of the time he was arrested on October 13, 2014. Rosales was interviewed and made statements that he was on the property about a month tending the marijuana garden but that he never saw a house or met the victim.

The motive for the murder appears to be Rosales's anger over not getting paid by any of the parties involved in the marijuana garden and that he returned to the victim's home to steal and kill him.

The case was investigated by Shasta County Sheriff's Detective Craig Tippings and was prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Emily Mees.