



Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

December 28, 2006

Now that the holiday buying season is winding down, District Attorney Mike Ramsey reminded those who may have written checks without sufficient funds to take care of them or face the fate of two men currently in Butte County Jail. The District Attorney's Bad Check Unit announced the recent arrests of two of Butte County's most prolific bad check writers. Duane Kevin Weaver, 48, of Paradise, wrote five non-sufficient funds checks totaling \$8035.46. The victims, which included local material supply companies, contacted the Bad Check Unit after attempts to collect the money from Weaver proved futile.

Weaver made payment for one check, but made no further payments and refused to respond to the District Attorney's office attempts to contact him. A felony criminal complaint was filed with the Butte County Superior Court and an arrest warrant was issued. Weaver was arrested in September of this year on that warrant, arraigned and given a future court date. He however failed to appear for the hearing and a second arrest warrant was issued. On December 15, 2006, Mr. Weaver was arrested by the Butte County Sheriff's Office and remains in custody pending further court hearings.

Michael McCartney, 40, was arrested on December 16, 2006, by California State Parks rangers on a warrant issued by the District Attorney's Bad Check Program and other charges.

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McCartney had written 16 non-sufficient funds checks totaling more than \$1200. McCartney failed to respond to repeated efforts by the District Attorney's office to contact him. A felony criminal complaint was filed against Mr. McCartney and an arrest warrant was issued. Mr. McCartney remains in custody pending further court hearings.

The District Attorney's Bad Check Unit offers a free service to local merchants to collect on those bad checks that have been passed at their business. The unit also provides bad check writers a chance to avoid prosecution by completing a diversion program. Participation in the program requires payment for the bounced check, along with bank and administrative fees, as well as attendance at a financial management class. If the check writer successfully completes the diversion process, a criminal record on the case can be avoided. If not, jail or prison loom on the horizon as with Weaver and McCartney.