



Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

MICHAEL L. RAMSEY

District Attorney

FRANCISCO R. ZARATE
Chief Deputy District Attorney

ANTHONY G. KOESTER
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
February 3, 2006

“Cold Hit” Snags Rapist

A man listed two years ago on Butte County’s Most Wanted list by a composite drawing with the name “unknown suspect” was brought to justice yesterday as he entered pleas admitting forcible rape and residential burglary in Butte County Superior Court. A DNA “cold hit” was responsible for bringing him to court, District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today.

Dominick Wynn, 36, faces a 24-year prison sentence when he is sentenced in superior court on March 2, 2006, on the rape and burglary charges plus enhancements as a result of a previous “strike” involving a conviction for felony threats. While in prison on his previous crime, Wynn’s DNA was taken and put into the state Department of Justice’s DNA data bank. His DNA was matched by the state computer to samples taken from the May 21, 2004 burglary and rape of a 24-year-old Chico woman. Ramsey said the match was one in 490 quadrillion.

Wynn’s victim at the time of the rape was able to provide Chico Police with a composite drawing of the unknown man who came into her bedroom during the night. It was this composite drawing that was placed on Butte County’s Most Wanted list and remained there until the DNA match. Ramsey said the composite drawing was amazingly close to Wynn appearance.

Ramsey said his office expects to see more of these “cold hit” cases as a result of the passage of Proposition 69 in November of 2004, which will eventually mandate the taking of DNA from all felony arrestees. “As in this case,” Ramsey said, “we had no idea who the rapist was until Chico Police submitted DNA samples taken from the rape to the state Department of Justice DNA central data bank, which matched it to Wynn’s previous-taken DNA.

Ramsey stated this case is another example of how DOJ’s DNA program is helping prosecutors bring to justice those who may have otherwise avoided detection. “I expect this program will allow us to further protect the public from repeat rapists and criminals, which will further enhance public safety.”