



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Las Plumas High School Attacker In Custody**

The masked assailant who entered a classroom at Las Plumas High School and attacked a student has been identified and arrested by the Butte County Sheriff's Department.

On Tuesday, February 17, 2008 at approximately 2:40 p.m., during 6<sup>th</sup> period classes, an intruder, wearing a bandana around his face to conceal his identity, entered Las Plumas High School classroom #609. Inside the classroom the intruder questioned male students about their identity. According to the teacher and other students in the classroom the intruder identified the student for whom he was looking. The intruder then immediately attacked the student, punching the student in the head several times. The intruder continued punching the student until the student fell to the floor. Once the student was on the floor the intruder left the classroom and ran across campus to a waiting vehicle.

Last Wednesday, February 18, 2008, detectives assigned to the Butte County Sheriff's Department Gang Unit identified and arrested the intruder. The intruder was booked into the Butte County Juvenile Hall. The intruder was identified as a 16 year old member of a criminal street gang. The intruder was not a student at Las Plumas High School. During the investigation it was determined the motive for the attack was retaliation for an alleged gang related insult made by the victim earlier in the week.

The Butte County District Attorney's Office filed a criminal petition in the Juvenile Division of the Butte County Superior Court alleging one count of Battery On School Grounds, a violation of Penal Code section 243.2. Because the battery was alleged to have been committed for the benefit of, at the direction of or in association with a criminal street gang, the battery was elevated to a felony pursuant to Penal Code section 186.22(d). It is the long-standing policy of the District Attorney to charge any gang related offense which occurs on school grounds during school hours as a felony.

The juvenile appeared in Butte County Juvenile Court last Friday and was ordered detained at Butte County Juvenile Hall pending trial on the felony. The juvenile is due in court tomorrow, February 25, where the District Attorney will file a "fitness" petition to ask the court to determine whether he should be tried as an adult based upon this offense and his prior serious criminal record.