



# Butte County

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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A Chico gang member was sentenced today to 16 years in prison for his role in a home invasion robbery.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today that Marty Lemaster, 20, was sentenced to the upper term of 6 years for a home invasion robbery with a 10-year enhancement for being armed with a gun during the crime.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 shortly after 11:00 a.m., Lemaster and two others, Brian Felix, 24 and Lorayna Gonsalves, 23, also both of Chico, entered a home on Lupin Avenue in north east Chico. The suspects then forced their way into a bedroom and demanded money from the residents.

Ramsey noted that all three suspects were members of the same Chico street gang.

Felix and Gonsalves, who previously entered no contest pleas to the home invasion robbery charge, will be sentenced January 9, 2008.

Lemaster, who was armed with a revolver, was recognized by the victims during the robbery.

Ramsey said the residence was selected for the robbery because one of the victims had reported to police that a relative of Lemaster had stolen property from her.

During sentencing, Lemaster's attorney argued for a lesser sentence due to Lemaster's relatively young age. The prosecutor cited Lemaster's juvenile record of car theft, assault and witness intimidation as factors warranting the upper term and noted that in juvenile court juveniles are frequently and repeatedly warned about the consequences of being involved in criminal gang activity.

When sentencing Lemaster to the upper term, Judge Reilley noted Lemaster's offenses were becoming increasing violent and serious.

Ramsey said the sentence was appropriate because Lemaster's gang ties and entering a home with a firearm made the crime a very dangerous offense.