



# *Butte County*

LAND OF NATURAL WEALTH AND BEAUTY

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GANG SHOOTING SUSPECT SENTENCED**

The second of two gang members involved in an assault rifle shooting in the parking lot of an Oroville shopping center was sentenced today to 14 years in state prison.

Jose Zuniga, 20, of Yuba City, received the maximum term by Judge Steven Howell for his use of an SKS assault rifle during a shooting earlier this year. In handing down the maximum term, the judge commented that Zuniga's actions posed an "extreme risk to the public."

Zuniga's cousin, Antonio "Big Tone" Galaviz, 24, also of Yuba City, had gotten into a fist fight with two other young males in the parking lot of the shopping center at the corner of Oro Dam Boulevard and Olive Highway on February 8, 2006. During the fight, Zuniga went to the trunk of Galaviz's nearby vehicle and pulled out the rifle, spraying 8-10 shots across the parking lot, hitting the vehicle the other males had hidden behind, as well as a closed business in the area. Luckily no one was hit by the hail of gunfire. Oroville Police were called but Zuniga and Galaviz fled back to Yuba City where they were later arrested and the assault rifle recovered.

Galaviz was sentenced earlier this year to five years in prison for his part in the shooting.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey commented this case shows the increasing tendency of gang members to turn simple fist fights into lethal armed confrontations. "Shooting an assault rifle in the parking lot of a shopping center near one of the busiest intersections in Oroville was just unconscionable and the gang banger deserved the maximum sentence for the danger he posed to the community."