



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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MAN HELD TO ANSWER FOR MURDER IN COMANCHE CREEK STABBING

The facts involving a fatal stabbing at the Comanche Creek Greenway homeless encampment in Chico were revealed today in a preliminary hearing in Butte County Superior Court. At the end of the hearing, **Jedidiah James Wright, 30**, was held to answer on a charge of murder by Judge Kristen Lucena, who found the prosecution presented sufficient evidence to hold Wright for jury trial on the allegation that Wright used a knife to stab and kill John Snoberger, 47, on August 1, 2021.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that during the preliminary hearing, officers from the Chico Police Department described the transient encampment at the Comanche Creek Greenway as containing several hundred homeless individuals in difficult and crowded conditions. The officers testified the crowded conditions at the large encampment make it nearly impossible to service the area. Several members of the Comanche Creek encampment were also present at the hearing, and testified about the conditions and the stabbing.

Ramsey said the evidence presented today showed Snoberger was living at the Comanche Creek Greenway, as was Wright. Wright walked over to Snoberger's camp at approximately 3:50 p.m. to confront him about a fight between Snoberger and a friend of Wright's the day before. According to witnesses, Wright confirmed Snoberger's identity and then immediately stabbed him in the chest once with a small folding knife, wounding him fatally.

Ramsey said Wright then left the encampment and headed down E. Park Ave where he was detained by Chico police and ultimately arrested. Wright had disposed of the knife prior to being detained, but he directed officers to the weapon which was recovered. Despite the crowded conditions of the camp, Chico police officers were on scene within minutes and immediately began life saving measures. Even with their efforts, Snoberger died within the hour.

Wright told officers that the stabbing had been in self-defense; however witnesses testified Wright had visited a campsite immediately adjacent to Snoberger's earlier in the day to "scope out" the campsite. Deputy District Attorney Jessica Miller argued to the judge that Wright did not have a valid claim of self-defense given the fact the stabbing had apparently occurred in retaliation and Wright had arrived at Snoberger's campsite with the knife in an open position, ready to use.

Wright remains in custody at the Butte County Jail with no bail. He will appear on October 27, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. to be arraigned on the charge of Murder with Use of a Knife.