



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

MARK MURPHY
Chief Deputy District Attorney

JASON WINES
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

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CO-DEFENDANTS IN COURT ON 2021 MURDER CHARGES

Three Oroville co-defendants were in Butte County Superior Court this week to face murder charges that may bring life sentences in state prison.

Andrew Lockner, 36, Lester Reed, 44, and Shelby Bankston (aka Beaulieu), 26, all of Oroville, are charged with murder, attempted robbery and shooting at an occupied vehicle stemming from an incident that resulted in the death of a 33-year-old Oroville man in June 2021. The charges also include allegations the defendants used a firearm causing the death. Bankston is charged with an additional misdemeanor count of soliciting for prostitution.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arise from the morning of June 29, 2021 in South Oroville. According to Ramsey, at approximately 5:47 a.m., Oroville Police received a call of an unresponsive man in the driver's seat of a vehicle near the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Pearl Street in South Oroville. When Oroville Police arrived, they found Jacob Nevin, 33, of Oroville, deceased in the vehicle. The cause of death was determined to be a gunshot wound. Ramsey said during the ensuing seven-month investigation, detectives from the Oroville Police Department discovered Nevin had been shot at 5:08 a.m. while sitting in his vehicle in a gravel parking lot near the intersection of Myers and D Streets in South Oroville. Ramsey said detectives believe that Nevin may have been set up to meet with Bankston in the parking lot where Lockner and Reed ambushed him. After being shot Nevin attempted to flee in his vehicle and died while driving northbound on Lincoln Boulevard.

Ramsey said that Lockner has a previous conviction for robbery that qualifies as a "strike" and potentially doubles any sentence imposed upon him. Ramsey also said Reed had prior convictions for robbery and dissuading a witness and potentially faces sentencing under the "three strikes" law. As previously convicted felons, both Lockner and Reed are prohibited from possessing firearms.

Ramsey added that, at the time of the murder, Reed was wanted by Chico Police Department for a robbery in Chico in May 2021. That case is scheduled for jury trial in March.

Ramsey said all three defendants were arraigned together this morning, February 9, 2021 in Butte County Superior Court. Bail was set for Lockner at \$2,550,000; for Reed at \$2,650,000; and for Bankston at \$2,375,000. All three defendants are scheduled to be back in Butte County Superior Court on March 2, 2022 for entry of pleas and setting of a preliminary hearing.

