



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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MAN CHARGED IN CHICO SHOOTING SPREE

A Chico man was charged today in Butte County Superior Court for three Chico-area shootings in early February.

Jerry Leu, 39, of Chico was charged with two counts of recklessly discharging a firearm, and one count of shooting at an occupied house.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges arise from a series of shootings that began in the early morning hours of February 7, 2022. On that date shortly before 5 a.m., Chico Police received reports of gunfire in a south Chico residential neighborhood on Flying V Street. Officers arrived and found a vehicle had been shot multiple times with the rounds traveling through the vehicle and hitting a nearby house. Several sleeping people occupied the home at the time. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Five minutes later, while investigating that incident, officers heard gunfire a few blocks away near a business park in the 2000 block of Talbert Drive. Officers were unable to locate any bullet strikes, but later that morning, a business owner reported he found multiple bullets lodged in the walls inside his business.

Still later that same morning at approximately 6 a.m., reports came into Chico Police of gunfire in the area of Hooker Oak Park. Officers responded and located several spent casings in the area of the disc golf park.

Chico Police detectives took over the investigation and through surveillance at the business, identified Leu as the shooter and then forensically matched casings and bullets left at the shooting scenes to weapons owned by Leu. Officers authored an arrest warrant and a search warrant for Leu's residence but were unable to locate him.

Ramsey said it was learned Leu had left the state shortly after the shootings, and he remained at large until early on Sunday, February 20, when he was found and arrested in Redding by Redding police on the Chico warrant while he was traveling back to Chico. Chico investigators went to Shasta County Jail to take custody of Leu and transported him to the Butte County Jail to face charges.

Ramsey said investigators discovered Leu may have been suffering from mental illness and

suffering a severe outbreak on the morning of February 7. There was no connection between Leu and the vehicle and home that was shot, as well as the disc golf course. However, Leu had been employed at the business that was shot. He had been employed there before being fired some two years ago.

Ramsey said that at Leu's arraignment today Judge Jesus Rodriguez ordered Leu held without bail, citing public safety concerns. Leu will next be in court on March 2, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. to be further arraigned.