



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FIRST DEGREE MURDER CONVICTION**

Woodland-February 11<sup>th</sup> – A Yolo County jury returned verdicts against Christopher Allen Buchanan, 22, for the June 25, 2007 beating death of Ryan Pimentel, 21. Buchanan was found guilty of First Degree Murder, Arson, and Unlawful Mutilation of Human Remains. He was also found to have personally used a deadly weapon, as well as having been previously convicted of Assault with a Deadly Weapon, a strike in California.

Buchanan, a lifelong friend of Pimentel, brought the victim to the apartment he shared with his girlfriend in downtown Sacramento. There Buchanan bludgeoned Pimentel to death with a solid metal jack handle, crushing part of his forehead and causing massive damage to his left eye socket, nose, left cheekbone, and mouth.

After the killing, Buchanan hid Pimentel's body in the trunk of his girlfriend's car overnight. The next morning, Buchanan dropped his girlfriend off at work and then drove out to Russell Boulevard between Davis and Winters, where he dumped the body on a dirt road, doused it with gasoline, lit it on fire, and left. Within an hour the body was discovered by an employee of the Yolo County Department of Agriculture who was looking for fly traps. Yolo County Sheriff's deputies contacted Buchanan within a couple of days after learning he was the last person to be seen with Pimentel alive. Buchanan initially denied the killing. He then changed his story, claiming he caught Pimentel going through his bedroom drawers. Later, he changed his story again, claiming that Pimentel attacked him with pepper spray.

The defense argued Buchanan was blinded by the attack and reached for anything he could find to defend himself, which happened to be the jack handle. Buchanan had found the jack handle a couple of months prior and had kept it in the back seat of his girlfriend's car.

After Buchanan's arrest, Sheriff's Deputies served a search warrant on the apartment, where they found blood stains throughout the apartment, and a blood-stained necklace belonging to Pimentel secreted in a pill bottle in Buchanan's closet.

Prosecuting attorney Robert Trudgen stated, "We are obviously very pleased with the outcome and hope that it can provide some solace to Ryan's family."

According to District Attorney Jeff Reisig, "Mr. Buchanan faces a sentence in excess of sixty years to life in prison for his crimes. Clearly justice was served by the jury's verdicts."

Sentencing is set for March 10, 2008 in Dept 7 at 1:30 pm.

For more information, contact District Attorney Jeff Reisig at 530-666-8180.