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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Career Criminal Accepts Prison Sentence of More Than 28 Years

(Woodland, CA) – July 7, 2011 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on July 6, 2011, Sacramento man Robert Christopher Shepler entered into a deal with prosecutors in which he agreed to serve a sentence of just over 28 years in prison for the robbery and assault of two teenagers at knifepoint in West Sacramento. This agreement was made during the second day of jury selection after the start of trial.

On June 9, 2010, Shepler intervened in an argument between three juveniles. Two brothers, ages 15 and 16, were arguing with another juvenile over an iPod. Shepler pulled a knife on the brothers and told them to empty their pockets. He shoved the younger brother against a wall and searched his pockets. He then turned to the 16-year-old, who was wearing a gold necklace. Shepler tried to rip the necklace from the boy's neck, but it didn't come off. He then pressed the knife against the boy's neck, demanding the necklace, and the boy complied.

The 40-year-old Shepler has a criminal record that spans nearly his entire adult life, including three prior strikes under California's "Three Strikes" law. This includes two robbery convictions in 1998, stemming from a similar incident where he took a necklace from a man at knifepoint. He has served three prison sentences and has numerous parole violations since 1994. He was out of custody for less than four months at the time of this current robbery.

Shepler was facing charges and allegations of robbery, attempted robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and personal use of a deadly weapon, as well as various allegations regarding his criminal history. Those charges and allegations carried a maximum sentence of nearly 40 years to life in prison.

Deputy District Attorney Robert Trudgen praised the last-minute plea bargain as a fair and just result. “This Defendant has a long history of dangerous criminal activity against innocent and sometimes particularly vulnerable victims. His incarceration will protect others in the community for a very long time.”

Shepler is scheduled to be sentenced on August 9, 2011, by the Honorable Judge David W. Reed.

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