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### Ex-Lake County deputy's child sex abuse trial delayed

By Jeremy Walsh -- Staff reporter
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SAN RAFAEL -- The trial of a former Lake County Sheriff's deputy facing child sex abuse charges was postponed Friday because the defense counsel was unavailable for next week's start date, the state prosecutor handing the case said.

Derik Dion Navarro is now scheduled to face a Marin County jury in June, according to David Druliner, of the California Attorney General's Office.

Navarro, 41, has pleaded not guilty to 16 felonies for alleged sexual acts involving a minor, reportedly an ex-babysitter, about seven years ago.

He was a Lake County Sheriff's deputy during the timeframe of the alleged acts. His employment with the department ended in April 2007 after an investigation into his alleged misconduct.

The nearly six-year-old case was transferred to Marin County Superior Court last May as a result of the fallout from a rejected plea bargain.

Navarro agreed to plead guilty to one felony count of unlawful intercourse with a minor in exchange for four months in county jail, formal probation and no sex-offender registration in December 2011.

The following month, Lake County Judge Andrew S. Blum denounced the proposed sentence and rejected the deal that reportedly had the support of all parties in the case, including the victim and the state prosecutor.

Navarro's not guilty pleas to all 16 counts were subsequently reinstated, and another judge granted a defense request for a change of venue in April 2012.

The ex-deputy was scheduled to stand trial in Marin

County on Monday, but the defense requested a delay Friday because Navarro's attorney, Mitchell Hauptman, was involved in an ongoing trial in Lake County, Druliner said.

Marin County Judge James Chou rescheduled the trial for June 3, according to Druliner. The state prosecutor took over the case after the Lake County District Attorney's Office declared a conflict following Don Anderson's election as DA in November 2010. Anderson previously represented Navarro in administrative proceedings.

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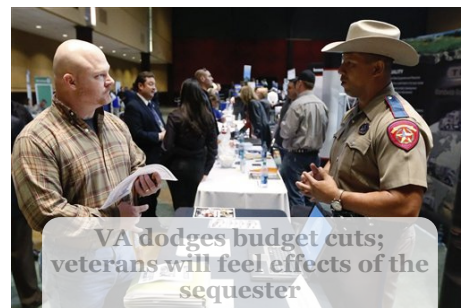
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