

# Yuba-Sutter Crime Beat: Reserve officer arraigned in molestation case

**Monica Vaughan/Appeal-Democrat | Posted: Friday, January 31, 2014 12:04 am**

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A Yuba-Sutter reserve law enforcement officer was arraigned Thursday on charges of child molestation.

Butte County Judge Kristen A. Lucena read the charges against Jared M. Tomlinson, 28.

After Tomlinson pleaded not guilty, Lucena set a June 16 jury trial date. The trial is estimated to last six days.

Tomlinson is charged with two counts of lewd act upon a child, two counts of oral copulation of a person under 16, sodomy of a person under 16 and attempted sodomy of a person under 16.

A reserve officer with the Sutter County Sheriff's Department and the Marysville Police Department at the time of his arrest, Tomlinson was placed on leave without pay.

Craig A. Leri, Tomlinson's defense attorney, has filed a motion to dismiss the charges, which is set to be heard March 4.

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A seven-day May jury trial in Yuba County Superior Court was set for a Linda shooting suspect on Monday.

Useph Thao, 31, is suspected of shooting a man in the face during an argument on Woodland Drive.

He is charged with first-degree attempted murder with enhancements for discharging a firearm from a vehicle with an intent to inflict great bodily injury or death, being a felon in possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition.

Thao remains in Yuba County Jail on a \$1 million bail.

The trial is scheduled to begin May 13.

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A man convicted of attempted manslaughter by a jury is scheduled to be sentenced today.

Bryce Wayne Nicholes, 25, was found guilty of attempted manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon with the use of a firearm after a seven-day trial in Sutter County Superior Court in October, with Judge Christopher R. Chandler presiding. The jury also found Nicholes committed the act "for the benefit of, direction of or in conjunction with a gang."

Nicholes fired shots during a confrontation with a group of Norteño gang members at Big John's Bar and Grill in Yuba City.

He is seeking an 11-year, six-month sentence in state prison to be served in concurrent with a 21-month federal sentence previously earned due to a prior drug and weapons conviction, according to court documents filed by his attorney, Philip Cozens.

Cozens has filed a motion to postpone the sentencing, due to an alleged inadequate amount of time to review the trial transcript for a potential new trial motion.

Nicholes remains at Sutter County Jail with an order for removal to Atwater Federal Prison.

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A hearing for a man charged with killing his 94-year-old neighbor last January was postponed on Thursday because the Yuba City police officer scheduled to testify is "currently on leave," according to court documents.

Michael Patrick Alexander, 21, was arrested in connection with the killing of neighbor Leola Lucile "Dodie" Shreves after she was discovered badly beaten at her home in the 500 block of Park Avenue in Yuba City.

Witnesses were scheduled, but Jana McClung, Sutter County's assistant district attorney, said an essential officer in the action "will not be available for the preliminary hearing as he is currently on leave."