



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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TWO MEN CHARGED WITH THE 2006 MURDERS OF THREE PEOPLE IN PINYON PINES

RIVERSIDE – Today, March 12, 2014, two men were charged in connection with a 2006 triple murder in Pinyon Pines and appeared in court for their arraignments.

Robert Lars Pape, DOB: 5-16-88; and Cristin Conrad Smith, DOB: 10-10-88, are each charged in case INF1400640 with three counts of murder in the deaths of Jon Hayward, Vicki Friedli, and Vicki's daughter, Becky Friedli. The murder counts pertaining to Hayward and Vicki Friedli have enhancements of personal use of a firearm. There is also a special circumstance allegation for both defendants alleging multiple murders. That allegation makes Pape eligible for the death penalty. A decision whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date by District Attorney Paul Zellerbach. Smith was a 17-year-old juvenile at the time of the murder and therefore is not eligible for the death penalty.

"Unfortunately, it has taken a long time for this investigation to reach this point," Zellerbach said. "Now that charges have been filed against these two men, we are hopeful that this will bring some solace to the victims' families."

Pape and Smith were arrested on March 11, 2014. Both defendants appeared in Dept. 44 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside today, March 12, 2014, to be arraigned once the grand jury indictment was unsealed. Grand jury proceedings are confidential until indictments are unsealed. Pape did not enter any plea and his arraignment was continued to March 18, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 3M at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. Smith entered not guilty pleas to all counts and now has a felony settlement conference scheduled for the same date, time and location. Smith, being a juvenile at the time of the crimes, was removed from the grand jury indictment and the DA's Office, as legally required, then direct filed a criminal complaint to try him as an adult reflecting the same charges as the grand jury indictment.

In December 2013, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Central Homicide Unit presented the case to the District Attorney's Office for a second time for a potential filing decision. At that time, the DA's Office accepted the case, conducted follow-up investigation, and made the determination to take the case before a criminal grand jury.

On Sept. 17, 2006, at about 9:50 p.m., a fire was reported at the Friedli home on Alpine Drive in Pinyon Pines where the three victims lived. When firefighters arrived they found Becky Friedli's body burning outside in a wheelbarrow about 70 feet from the home, which was also in flames. After firefighters extinguished the blaze, they found the bodies of Hayward and Vicki Friedli inside. It was determined that both Hayward and Vicki Friedli had been shot. A friend of Becky Friedli's told homicide investigators that he had spoken to her on the phone earlier that evening and Becky told him that she was waiting for Pape, who was her former boyfriend, and Smith so the three could go hiking. Pape later told investigators that he and Smith decided not to go hiking with Becky and instead the two men were only with each other the night of the murders. At the crime scene there was a trail left by the wheelbarrow in which Becky Friedli's body was found. At the likely origin point of that trail, a business card was found on which investigators located DNA that matches Smith, who claims to have never been to the Friedli home. The chance that such a DNA match could happen at random is 1 in 320,000.