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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: 9-16-08  
Re: Jason Nathaniel Lewis #1231113

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jason Nathaniel Lewis, age 39, of Modesto, was convicted, following a jury trial, of rape of an 81 year old woman during the course of a burglary. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

In the early morning hours of January 10, 2007, the 81 year old victim, asleep in her bed, suddenly woke to a masked man in her bedroom. “I have a knife, do what I say, and you won’t be hurt.” Frightened for her life, the elderly victim complied with her attacker while he tied her hands behind her, turned her over, and raped her. The victim saw the knife the man brought with him. She described it for the jury as a long slender knife, with a crescent end, “like a scalpel.” She saw it lying next to the pillow on her bed during the assault. Before the man left, he removed the bottom sheet on the bed and took the victim to the bathroom where he had her rinse away any evidence of his sexual assault. He then threatened her, should she call the police, he would return. She believed him. It was almost a week later that the Sheriff’s Department was contacted, and only then by a concerned neighbor who allowed the police to remove pieces of his fence to gain access to the victim without being seen on her street.

“He almost got away with this,” argued Rees in her closing argument to the jury. “The now 83 year old victim would never be able to identify him. The only thing he stole - was the evidence.” Fortunately, Jason Lewis’s DNA was on file with the Criminal Offender data base. The Department of Justice Criminalists detected sperm on the mattress pad collected by the Deputy who responded a week later. After the Department of Justice got the initial hit from the data base, a verification oral sample was taken directly from Lewis and matched up to the sperm found. According to the DNA expert’s testimony, the chances of another Caucasian having that same DNA result, was 1 in 19-quadrillion. The victim testified that she did not know Lewis and he had never been invited into her home. “There is only one reason that Jason Lewis’s DNA is on Jane Doe’s bed - he was there, and he raped her,” Rees told the jury.

The jury found the defendant guilty of rape, penetration with a foreign object, first degree burglary and threatening a witness. Three special allegations were found true: that the rape occurred during the commission of a residential burglary, a deadly weapon was used, and the

victim was tied or bound. Following a court trial on the prior convictions on September 15, 2008, Lewis's prior strike, and two prior prison commitments were found true by the Honorable Hurl Johnson who presided over the trial. Lewis will be sentenced on October 20, 2008. Lewis is facing a maximum prison sentence of 74 years to life.

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