



Serving Justice

The Lassen County District Attorney's Office Quarterly E-newsletter

Volume 3

Newsletter Date: July 2017

Special points of interest:

- A message from the Senior Investigator
- Why is crime increasing in Lassen County?
- Welcome to our new office

Hello Lassen County!

My name is Doug Wilber and I am the newly hired Senior Investigator for the Lassen County District Attorney's Office. Originally employed for 23 years by the Hendricks County Sheriff's Office in the Indianapolis, Indiana, I've worked in every division of that department with an emphasis on Investigations. Additionally, I worked as an investigator at the Marian County/Indianapolis District Attorney's office with a focus on elder and financial crime. I retired in 2015. Investigations is my calling and a passion and I can say I've investigated every major and minor crime known to law enforcement. I served with the Plumas County Sheriff's Office for 1 year as a Patrol Deputy before moving to Lassen County when I accepted the position with the DA. Everyone asks, why did I move to California? We all have a dream about where we would like to live, mine has always been the mountains and northern California is the most beautiful area in the country. I have



met some of the friendliest people in the short time I have lived here. I married Shelly Wilber in October of 2014 and have two boys of my own and two boys and one girl with Shelly. Large Family! I enjoy fishing, hunting, guns, races, and spending time with my family. I am a proud member of the Masonic Lodge Indianapolis #669. I look forward to serving the citizens of Lassen County with integrity, fairness and dedication to every investigation I am assigned.

Thank you for welcoming me to the community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. 530-251-8283

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Securing Your Home in An Era of Rising Crime

Residential burglary is on the increase in many parts of the county, and no neighborhood is off limits. Increases in property crime are occurring the most in states that have reduced consequences for criminals, and California is leading the nation in that regard. Some quick facts about home burglaries:

Most burglaries occur between 10AM and 3PM when many people are at work or school, but roughly 30% occur when someone is home. Over 1/3 of all burglars enter through the front door, and 30% get in through an unlocked door or window. The first room most burglars go into is the master bedroom for jewelry, firearms and other valuables. Most residential burglars are looking for easy access, and can burglarize a home in 10 minutes. Less than 15% of residential burglars are ever arrested. An easy access point for discreet thieves is an attached garage, particularly one with an older side door or window opening to the back yard. A burglar will walk through the gate or jump the fence, break the glass to get into the garage and pry open the door to the house unobserved. So, what can you do to make your home less attractive to burglars? Make your house a hard target—add deadbolts to exterior doors and windows and lock them

when you are and are not home. Trim plants around windows so criminals cannot hide behind them, Replace old exterior doors, install a single-sided deadbolt about two feet from the top of the front door which makes it almost impossible for anyone to kick it in. Place a metal grate over single-paned side windows to an attached garage. Use motion detector lighting. If you park cars in your driveway, keep extra keys in your bedroom. If you hear someone breaking in push the panic button for the car alarm to frighten off the prowler and alert the neighbors. Keep valuables, jewelry and firearms in a safe bolted to the floor, especially when you plan to be gone. About firearms: You have a right to own a gun to protect your home, but there are responsibilities that accompany that right. Taking the time to choose the right gun for you is essential. Take a licensed gun-safety class, every state requires this for a concealed-carry license, and unless you

have been trained on firearm use, you should take the class. About security systems: Home security systems deter burglars. Even a sign or window sticker announcing a security system is enough deterrent to convince a burglar to find an easier target. The best systems use remote cameras triggered by movement that set off an audible alarm and alert police when triggered. Because most burglars “case” the houses they plan to rob, security cameras that can be easily reached and disabled are not of much value. There are other steps you can take to protect your home. Coordinate with your neighbors to pick up newspapers and mail and to keep an eye on your home while you are away. Consider forming a Neighborhood Watch group to monitor activity in your neighborhood and establish a line of communication with the local police. Install timers to turn on interior lights at night and consider leaving a radio on to give the impression

you are home. Make sure your homeowner’s insurance is current and has adequate coverage for your belongings. Many people only consider steps to improve home security after they have been burglarized. Don’t be one of those people.

The Lassen County District Attorney’s Office would like to thank Michael Rushford of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation for the permission to share this article from the [Advisory](#) newsletter, Volume 35, No. 2, Spring 2017.

Refuse To Be A Victim.®



Open House

The Lassen County District Attorney

and

Victim Witness



would like to invite law enforcement, local social service organizations and community members to tour the new office space and enjoy refreshments.

August 9, 2017 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM

-This is a drop in event

Lassen County Government Building

2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville



Park in front and follow the signs to enter the offices through the West Entrance in the back of the building.

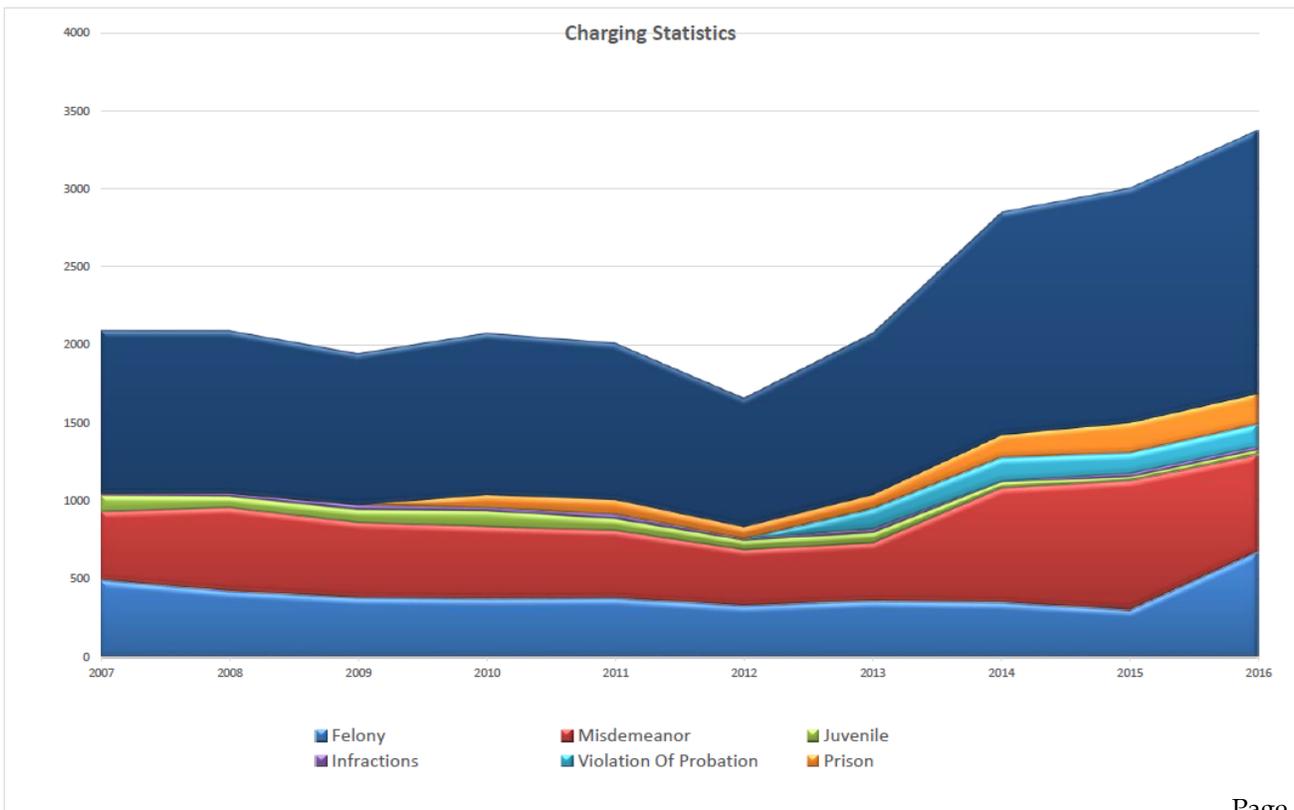
Statistics Summary and Case Dispositions

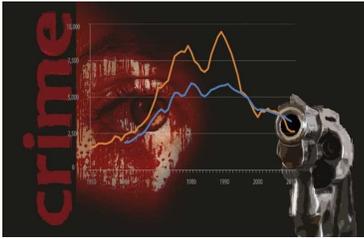
On April 18, 2016 the Lassen County District Attorney’s office began using the Prosecutor by Karpel (PBK) cloud based data management system. PBK has allowed the office to create reports, track trends and gather statistics effecting the prosecution of crime. We will be sharing some of our successes and challenges over the next year and intend to publish statistics and case disposition information to inform the community about public safety issues. As an example, the table and graph below were presented to the Lassen County Board of Supervisors to demonstrate how the number of cases submitted to the DA for charging has increased with the passage of Proposition 47. If interested in specific statistics, you are welcome to email our office for more information on how to make a request.

Lassen County District Attorney Case Summary Calendar Years 2007 - 2016

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Juvenile	Infractions	Violation Of Probation	Prison	Total
2007	489	437	106	15	0	0	1047
2008	418	534	74	21	0	0	1047
2009	375	481	85	33	0	0	974
2010	368	462	104	19	0	86	1039
2011	372	434	78	28	0	95	1007
2012	324	359	65	6	0	78	832
2013	355	371	69	23	130	91	1039
2014	344	734	40	4	153	150	1425
2015	298	827	24	25	131	197	1502
2016	669	620	30	24	144	199	1686

2014 - Prop 47
 Since D.A. Montgomery Elected





To address public concern over the growing rates of crime in Lassen County the District Attorney will be publishing various articles addressing the reasons for, and what is being done to combat crime in our county and across the state. In May 2017, the Public Policy Institute of California, an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) who's mission is to inform and improve public policy through independent, objective and nonpartisan research published an article titled: *Pretrial Release in California* by Tafoya, Bird, Nguyen and Grattet. A portion of the article is reprinted here, with permission.

"To further reduce reliance on incarceration without compromising public safety, state policy makers are currently considering reforming California's pretrial system. Key questions for reform include whether the state holds too many defendants in jail pending trial and whether bail is an equitable form of pretrial release. This report uses newly available data to provide information about pretrial release in California and to give policy makers a better understanding of the defendants who tend to be released and the form of release they secure. Examining jail bookings and releases from 11 counties from 2011 to 2015, this study finds:

Overall, 41.5% of individuals booked on misdemeanors or

felonies are released pretrial.

The most common types of pretrial release include cite and release after booking (46.6%), bail (27.8%), and release on recognizance (15.9%). **Pretrial release is more common for less serious offenses.** About half of individuals booked on misdemeanors were released pretrial, compared with 29.8% of those booked on felonies. **For more serious offenses, bail is the predominant form of pretrial release.** Although pretrial release rates are low overall for more serious offenses, those who secure release tend to do so through bail. This is true for individuals charged with felonies or serious, violent or sexual offenses. In contrast, the most common form of pretrial release for misdemeanors is cite and release. **Pretrial release is less common for those with active warrants, holds, or supervision violations at booking.** Among those with active warrants, about one-third (33.7%) are release pretrial. Pretrial release for those with holds (17.3%) or supervision violations (15.8%) is even less common." For a full look into PPIC's article please see: www.ppic.org.

The question stands, however, with pretrial release, are not offenders given the "golden ticket" to reoffend or not return for their mandatory court appearances? What, if anything, can Lassen County residents do to address the state's seemingly continued focus on offender rights verses the rights of citizens to be safe in their homes?

Assembly Bill 109, or "Public

Why is crime increasing in Lassen County?

Safety Realignment", enacted by the state in 2011, moved the management of low level felons from state prison to county jail and probation. Three years later, Proposition 47 in which 10,000 inmates were eligible for resentencing, was approved by voters and classified "non-serious, nonviolent crimes" as misdemeanors instead of felonies unless the defendant has prior convictions for murder, rape, certain sex offenses or certain gun crimes. Re-sentencing offenders eligible by the Prop 47 initiative has seriously effected, and increased, the amount of cases submitted for review by the Lassen County District Attorney's Office. (see page 4). Prop 57, as previously addressed in the DA Newsletter in Volume I: *The Dangerous Road* has allowed for the early release and parole of violent offenders. There are numerous serious felonies that are referred to as "not violent" under California law, but which are in fact, violent in nature. The term "non-violent felony offense" was not defined in the Governor's 57 plan nor established in California law. We can infer then any felony not included in the definition of "violent felony" would be a "non-violent felony" and some crimes in which early release of "non-violent felons" under Prop 57 include: assault with a deadly weapon, rape of an unconscious or intoxicated victim, and involuntary or vehicular manslaughter. Releasing individuals guilty of these horrible crimes jeopardizes our safety. The Lassen County community is now reaping the consequences of what was sown, cloaked in the liberal, feel good tactics of "rehabilitation" supported by Governor Brown. We must take action as concerned citizens. Please take a moment to visit our website to take part in a public comment session on Prop 57 and share your concerns with CDCR. Also, contact your Assemblyman Brian Dahle: <https://ad01.asmrc.org> and Senator Ted Gaines: <http://gaines.cssrc.us> to make your voices heard!

Lassen County
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Mission Statement: The Lassen County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the community we serve, is dedicated to ensuring public safety through the vigorous, ethical and professional prosecution of crime while protecting the rights of victims and witnesses.

Meet the staff of the Lassen County District Attorney's Office:

Stacey Montgomery, District Attorney
Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator
Dan Howe, Prison Prosecution
David Evans, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Stephanie Skeen, Deputy District Attorney
Mark Beallo, Deputy District Attorney
Shannon Carter, Deputy District Attorney
Leann Christensen, Sr. Legal Secretary
Alicia Heard, Sr. Legal Secretary
Ellie Brown, Legal Secretary
Doug Wilber, Senior Investigator
Latoya Salas, Victim Witness Coordinator
Michielle Noonberg, Victim Witness Advocate I
Krystal Dodge, Victim Witness Advocate I
Lori Lars, Volunteer
Vince Robinson, Volunteer

For information about the

Victim Witness Program call (530) 251-8281

Or email:

lcvictimwitness@co.lassen.ca.us

The mission of the Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the Office of the District Attorney is to support victims and witnesses with services which will help them cope with the aftermath of victimization and help make their participation in the system less difficult and burdensome. This program works closely with other local, state, and county offices to provide assistance to victims and their families.

