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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2010

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### JOHNNY LINDEL LEWIS

Today a jury convicted Johnny Lindel Lewis of murder in the first degree. He will return to court for sentencing on August 18, 2010. The Honorable Judge Marilyn Miles presided over the trial.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the California Pacific Carbon Plant in Fields Landing early in the morning of November 18, 2009, after a worker there was contacted by the victim, Robert Van Alstine. Mr. Van Alstine was bleeding from a stab wound and he died from the injury later that morning.

Detectives with the Sheriff's Department contacted numerous witnesses and ultimately located video from a store security camera that showed the victim being picked up at approximately 3:55AM in Eureka. The detectives began to search for the vehicle the victim was last seen getting into and found it severely burned in Loleta.

Detectives ultimately learned the defendant was in the car when the victim was picked up and invited him to go drink with him. After taking him to Fields Landing he stabbed him.

The District Attorney's office thanked Sgt. Wayne Hanson, Detective Troy Garey and Detective Cheryl Franco for their diligence and perseverance in solving this murder.

The defendant is facing 25 years to life for the murder and an additional one year for the use of the knife.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Maggie Fleming and defended by Andrew Truitt of the Public Defender's office.