



Superior Court
Of the State of California for the
County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-6838/Fax (530) 406-6835
Shawn C. Landry
Court Executive Officer

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

<u>To</u>	<u>Fax #'s</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>email</u>
Daily Journal Davis Enterprise	(530) 756-1668	Attn: Paul Jones Attn: Debbie Davis	paul_jones@dailyjournal.com newsroom@davisenterprise.net ddavis@davisenterprise.net lkeene@davisenterprise.net info@davisvanguard.org
Davis Vanguard Sacramento Bee West Sacramento News Ledger West Sacramento News Press Winters Express Woodland Daily Democrat Woodland Daily Democrat (2) Woodland Daily Democrat (3) Woodland Record Woodland Record (2)	(916) 321-1109 (916) 371-8055 (916) 371-9113 (530) 795-3578 (530) 406-6262 no fax	Attn: Darrell Smith Attn: Steve Marschke Attn: Carol Bogart Attn: Debra DeAngelo Attn: Jim Smith Attn: Jeff McCallum	dvsmith@sacbee.com steve@news-ledger.com editor@westsacramentopress.com news@wintersexpress.com news@dailydemocrat.com sdowling@dailydemocrat.com iking@dailydemocrat.com jeff@woodlandrecord.com stories@woodlandrecord.com

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Contact: Court Executive Office
Phone: 530-406-6838
Woodland, CA 95695

Felony Probation Drug Court Graduation

The Yolo County Superior Court will hold a court proceeding and formal ceremony on November 7, 2016, for three (3) graduates of the Court's Felony Probation Drug Court. Judge Janet Gaard will preside over the ceremony which will be held at 2:30 p.m. in Department 4 of the courthouse located at 1000 Main Street in Woodland.

The Felony Probation Drug Court has been operating in Yolo County since 1999. Felony Probation Drug Court is a special court given responsibility to handle cases involving substance-abusing offenders through comprehensive supervision through the court and probation, drug testing, and treatment services. Felony Probation Drug Court offers individuals facing criminal charges for non-violent crimes, an opportunity to enter a substance abuse recovery program in lieu of state prison.

The requirements of Felony Probation Drug Court are strict because the road to recovery is not easy. Each client must complete an intensive residential treatment program, is tested frequently, must attend substance abuse recovery meetings and make regular court appearances in order to comply with the requirements of Felony Probation Drug Court.

Statistics show that the Court remains extremely successful in diverting criminal offenders from the "revolving-door" syndrome of returning to incarceration due to active addiction. Not only is recidivism reduced, but lives are being changed for the better, and families are being reunited. Additionally, government and consequently the taxpayers are saving money. It costs thousands of dollars less to treat an individual than it does to incarcerate the same individual. Collectively the three individuals set to graduate were subjected to suspended sentences of 31 years 4 months in state/county prison, with an average cost of approximately \$47,000/year to house a prison inmate; the total savings to taxpayers are potentially in the neighborhood of 1 million dollars.

Representatives from participating agencies and providers will attend the ceremony to offer their congratulations to the three graduates.