



**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Date: Friday, May 3, 2019  
Release No.: 19-035

**Charges Filed in 1980 Cold-Case Murder**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced that Lenard Chester (DOB 04/22/61), incarcerated at the Department of State Hospitals-Coalinga, was charged with the murder of Sarah Leah Bullis, age 81, that occurred in Oxnard on December 1, 1980. Special circumstances are alleged that Chester murdered Ms. Bullis during the course of a burglary and rape. These allegations make Chester eligible for the death penalty or, in the alternative, specify a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Arraignment is set May 3, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He will be detained at the Ventura County jail pending trial on these charges.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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