

Contreas pleads guilty again to murder charge

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Editor

Jose Contreas has once again pleaded guilty to the murder of a man on Goat Hill Road. Contreas, 29, of Geneva, faces 25 years in state prison.

Contreas originally pleaded guilty in January 2011 to a reduced felony murder charge and received a 25-year prison



Contreas

sentence. He was allowed to withdraw his guilty plea and have a trial. Contreas again pleaded guilty after he found that he could be deported if convicted of murder.

Contreas was one of two people charged by the Geneva County Sheriff's Department with capital murder in the shooting death of 55-year-old Alvaro Nunez during a kidnapping and robbery on Sept. 19, 2010.

A Geneva County grand jury returned a two-count felony indictment charging Contreas with capital murder kidnapping and capital murder robbery.

Deann Jane Dunham, 45, of Samson, pleaded guilty in July 2011 to a reduced felony murder charge in the murder and kidnapping. She is serving a 25-year prison term.

The crime was committed after the three people had been drinking alcohol much of the day, Sheriff Greg Ward said. The trio then went to the victim's home, drank some more and then the victim got a rifle and shot at Contreas.

They apparently worked out the disagreement and had a few more drinks, but Nunez was later found choked and placed into the trunk of a car before being shot to death, apparently with his own gun, at a drainage ditch on Goat Hill Road. Deputies recovered the rifle used in the slaying after it was sold for just \$10.