

## Judge dismisses some charges in Dillon Beach attack

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Four men accused of attacking a pair of teenage campers at Dillon Beach were ordered to stand trial on robbery charges and other counts, but a judge tossed a bundle of related charges this week for lack of evidence.

"In the grand scheme of justice, it's reduced (the case) from an armed robbery to a typical Marin slapfight that got out of hand," said defense attorney Jon Rankin, the lawyer for suspect Ryan Romandia.

The incident occurred at 1:30 a.m. Aug. 2, when the 16-year-old victims were camping with family at Lawson's Landing. The victims said five suspects - one with a gun and two with knives - confronted them at the campground and beat them, according to the sheriff's department.

The victims also reported that the suspects restrained them, forced them to walk to a different part of the campground and set them free, but took their red flashlights and some marijuana.

The victims, both residents of Roseville, went back to their campsite and deputies were called to the scene. Deputies found the five suspects at their camp with the red flashlights. The marijuana had been consumed.

Deputies arrested Romandia, 20, of Carmichael; Robert John Cesario, 21, of Carmichael; Jeff Homolka, 20, of Elk Grove; Vito Perez, 24, of Mather;

and Nicolas Wagner, 25, of Carmichael. Prosecutors filed charges of robbery, assault, criminal threats, false imprisonment, receipt of stolen property and weapons allegations, plus battery charges against Homolka and Perez, said Deputy

District Attorney Tom Brown.

A preliminary examination of the evidence was held this week for all but Wagner, who posted bail quickly after his arrest. After witness testimony and defense cross-examination of the victims, Judge Paul Haakenson ruled Wednesday that there was insufficient evidence to try the four men for felony assault, criminal threats or the alleged use of a gun and knives.

"It was clear there were no weapons involved in this case," Rankin said.

The four suspects were ordered to stand trial on the remaining charges. Further hearings were set for Sept. 2, and bail was reduced from \$50,000 to \$15,000.

Hearings for Wagner are pending.

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