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DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO 1984 & 1985 HOMICIDES

Santa Cruz District Attorney Jeff Rosell announced today that Terry Childs, 61, pleaded guilty last Friday to his commission of two murders, occurring in 1984 and 1985. Childs was sentenced by Judge Timothy Volkmann to two terms of life without possibility of parole, to be served consecutive to each other.

The two murders were unsolved prior to Childs speaking with members of local law enforcement and admitting his commission of the crimes. On October 11, 1984, the body of Joan Mack was found at Beer Can Beach in the Aptos area. The cause of death was multiple stab wounds. On February 3, 1985, Christopher Hall was found dead in the San Lorenzo Park area from a single gunshot wound. The law enforcement investigation conducted at the time suggested that the killing was drug-related.

Mack's daughter Alexis, five years old at the time of her mother's death, spoke eloquently at the court hearing of the loss of her mother and the resulting trauma she has dealt with. She said, "I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for everyone involved with this case at the District Attorney's Office and all else involved in contributing to making it possible for the defendant to step forward to do this. The events that took place today have been tremendously helpful in my healing process while also giving me the opportunity to be heard."

Rosell added, "We are thankful to our law enforcement team in Santa Cruz for their outstanding efforts in these two cases. Justice has been served and we were able to help bring closure to the victims' families."

Childs will serve these two new sentences consecutive to murder sentences he is already serving for murder convictions in Santa Cruz in 1987, Nevada in 1998, and Santa Clara in 2007.