

May 13, 2009 8:28 AM

SANTA BARBARA - A jury of eight woman and four men has been impaneled in the capital murder case of Jesse James Hollywood. Four alternates were also selected in a process that lasted over two weeks and concluded on Tuesday. Evidentiary hearings will take place today before Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Brian Hill. Opening statements could begin on Friday. The jury has been excused until then. Mr. Hollywood is charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping charges with special circumstances that could bring the death penalty in connection with the 2000 abduction and execution style slaying of 15-year-old Nicholas Markowitz over an alleged drug debt owed by Nicholas' older half-brother. Prosecutors allege that Mr. Hollywood masterminded the kidnapping and killing.