Wannabe rapper gets life in prison in murder case

By TOM MCELROY Associated Press

NEW YORK — A reputed street gang leader who sought to convince a jury that amateur music videos featuring him rhyming about carrying guns and spilling the blood of rivals were pure fiction was sentenced Thursday to life in prison.

Ronald Herron was convicted in June of murder, racketeering, robbery and other charges following a monthlong trial in federal court in Brooklyn.

During the trial, Herron took the witness stand in his own defense, testifying that he decided to leave his life of crime and pursue a hip-hop career using the name Ra Diggs in 2007 after serving a six-year prison term for drug dealing.

Herron, 33, described seeking out the guidance of a music promoter

who suggested he use subject matter from his experiences growing up as the son of a crack addict father and shoplifter mother in a drug-plagued housing project in Brooklyn. He testified those experiences included becoming a crack dealer and armed robber as a teenager, joining the Bloods gang in a youth detention facility and surviving a shooting when he was back on the street.

Prosecutors, during their case, played a clip they argued is proof of payback in the 2009 shooting and wounding of one of Herron's top lieutenants, nicknamed Moose. Herron was filmed visiting Moose at a hospital and saying, "See you at a cemetery near you, man," what the government alleges was a warning to the assailant Herron later tracked down and killed.

"For years, Ronald Herron unleashed brutal, unrelenting violence on his community while glorifying his criminal lifestyle as a crack-dealing gangster," U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch said in a statement.

But Herron denied killing anyone. The cemetery comment, he testified, 'was just ad-libbing.'

"I wasn't directing it at anyone in particular," he said.

Before trial, the defense had argued that Herron's recordings were constitutionally protected free speech that should be off-limits. But the judge ruled that the recordings were relevant because they establish Herron's identity as the leader of a Bloods faction called the Murderous Mad Dogs.

Lynch called Herron a callous

thug. "Herron styled himself a rap artist, but the evidence proved that he was a murderous thug who sought power through violence, fear and intimidation," she said.

Wild Kratts ♥ Curious George ...



George R. R. Martin

'Game of Thrones' author releases chapter from next book

NEW YORK (AP) — Yes, George RR Martin really is working on that next book.

The "Game of Thrones" author released a chapter Thursday from his very long-awaited sixth volume of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" fantasy series, "The Winds of Winter." The chapter appears on Martin's web site (http://www. georgerrmartin.com/excerptfrom-the-winds-of-winter) and is told from the perspective of San-

Sesame Street

sa Stark, living under the name Alayne Stone. She is played on the HBO adaptation by Sophie Turner.

Season Five of "Game of Thrones" premieres at 9 p.m. EDT April 12 on HBO. Martin has already cut back on personal appearances and decided against writing for the sixth season so he can concentrate on "The Winds of Winter." The previous "Fire and Ice" book, "A Dance With Dragons," came out in 2011.

DinoTrain | DinoTrain | Peg + Cat | SuperW!

Television > Today's highlights



Aaron Stanford stars in "12 Monkeys"

Whose Line Is It Anyway?

The improv experts welcome special guests Tara Lipinski and Keegan-Michael Key in this episode. The audience puts their comedic skills to the test with wacky suggestions for spontaneous improv games. Aisha Tyler hosts

21 Jump Street **KFFX KPTV** 8:00 p.m.

Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum star in this big screen comedy adaptation of the '80s crime drama. Two young police officers go undercover at a high school in the hopes of busting those responsible for a new synthetic drug.

25 KNDU KGW 8:00 p.m.

Nick (David Giuntoli) and Hank (Russell Hornsby) learn of a Wesen with a tragic, fatal touch while investigating the death of a cyclist. Also, a new member of the Royal Family (guest star Nico Evers-Swindell) is introduced.

Hawaii Five-0 19 KEPR KOIN 9:00 p.m.

Grover (Chi McBride) is suspicious when his oldest and closest friend tells him he witnessed his wife fall to her death. He has a feeling the incident was no accident. Elsewhere, Danny (Scott Caan) and Dr. Shaw (Amanda Setton) get trapped in an elevator.

12 Monkeys SYFY 9:00 p.m.

The fight for humanity's future continues as time-traveller Cole (Aaron Stanford) races against the clock to stop a devastating outbreak before it begins in a new episode. The thriller is inspired by the 1995 blockbuster movie of the same name.

Meet the Smiths

TBS 9:00 p.m.

NBA legend Kenny Smith and his family invite viewers into their home in this new unscripted comedy. He and his wife, actress Gwendolyn Osborne-Smith, have five kids ranging in age from two to 21, making for a rambunctious household.

Blue Bloods 19 KEPR KOIN 10:00 p.m.

The Reagan family once again seeks justice in New York City in this new episode. Police Commissioner Frank Reagan (Tom Selleck) is the proud father of Detective Danny (Donnie Wahlberg), Assistant D.A. Erin (Bridget Moynahan) and cop Jamie (Will Estes).

Talk shows

7:00 a.m. 19 KEPR KOIN CBS This

25 KNDU KGW Today Show Good Housekeeping's No Cook Breakfast

42 KVEW KATU Good Morning America ESPN2 ESPN First Take **WPIX** Maury Kayla thinks Ryan is the father, but he says she sleeps around a

lot, it could be anyone 8:00 a.m. WPIX The Jerry Springer **Show** Sarah admits to sleeping with her boyfriend's brother, saying she no longer feels a spark.

9:00 a.m. 19 KEPR The Meredith 25 KNDU KGW Today Show II Heather Graham on Today.
42 KVEW Live! With Kelly and

10:00 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Today Show III Kathie Lee and Hoda Give it

KVEW KATU The View HALL Home and Family
WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show Bill Cunningham steps in to get to the bottom of cheating accusations.

11:00 a.m. **11** KFFX The Real **25** KNDU Steve Harvey KATU Live! With Kelly and Michael WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show Noon KPTV The Real 31 KTNW Charlie Rose
42 KVEW KATU The Chew
HALL Home and Family

1:00 p.m. **KPTV** The Wendy Williams 19 KEPR KOIN The Talk 59 OPB Charlie Rose

thinks he may not be his son's father

His girlfriend Faith wants to prove he

2:00 p.m. KOIN 42 KVEW The Doctors

Midnight 31 KTNW Maria Hinojosa: FNC Red Eye With Greg Gutfeld 12:30 a.m. 31 KTNW Tavis Smiley 12:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Late Night With Seth Mevers

KGW The Dr. Oz Show A woman reveals what she saw on the other side;

KATU The Meredith Vieira Show 3:00 p.m. (19) KEPR KOIN Dr. Phil

KGW The Ellen DeGeneres Show

Guests include Kelly Clarkson; Katie

42 KVEW The Rachael Ray Show

DeGeneres Show Guests include Kelly

42 KVEW The Oueen Latifah Show

8:30 p.m. **31 KTNW 59 OPB** Charlie

6:45 p.m. **HBO2** Last Week Tonight

10:00 p.m. HBO Real Time With Bill

11:00 p.m. **31 KTNW** Charlie Rose 11:35 p.m. **19 KEPR KOIN** The Late

25 KNDU KGW The Tonight Show

11:45 p.m. **HBO** Real Time With Bill

42 KVEW KATU Jimmy Kimmel Live

Show With David Letterman

Starring Jimmy Fallon

KATU Steve Harvey 4:00 p.m. 23 KNDU The Ellen

Clarkson; Katie Lowes

With John Oliver

Rose: The Week

Maher

find out how to outsmart food traps.

19 KEPR KOIN The Late Late Show With James Corden 1:00 a.m. AMC The Talking Dead A discussion on 'The Walking Dead'

episode, 'Conquer. 1:30 a.m. 31 KTNW 59 OPB Charlie Rose: The Week 1:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Last Call With Carson Daly

Pendleton East-Oregonian, OR: Talk Shows Apr

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AFTERNOON

59 OPB 13 Stretch

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The Fault in Our Stars Shailene Woodley.

\(\st \st \st \st \st 22 \) Jump Street Channing Tatum

★★★ Diango Unchained ('12, West) Jamie Foxx

♀ ★★ Turistas Josh Duhame

♥ Into the Storm

:55 BlckSail Movie

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:35 SinCity

:45 Lies

LastWeek |:15 ♥ The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift

549 :05 ♀ ★★ True Crime ('99, Dra) Clint Eastwood. :15 ♀ ★★ Norbit ('07, Com) Eddie Murphy.

:40 ♥ ★★★ 12 Years a Slave ('13, Dra) Chiwetel Ejiofor.

♥ ★★★ The Amityville Horror

621 :05 The White Queen :15 * Grown Ups 2 ('13, Com) Adam Sandler.