

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

JURY FINDS PRUNEDALE MAN GUILTY OF DOMESTIC BATTERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on March 1, 2017, Darwin Lopez, age 27, a resident of Prunedale, was found guilty by jury of domestic battery.

On September 6, 2016, Jane Doe flagged down a California Fish and Wildlife officer on the side of the road after requesting a civil standby from law enforcement. At trial, Jane Doe testified that during an argument, Lopez, her ex-boyfriend, started throwing items around their house before he pinned her to the bed, made a fist at her, and jabbed at her stomach. Jane Doe was pregnant at the time. Jane Doe told the jury that she had to scratch Lopez to get off of the bed. She left the house. 20 minutes later, Lopez approached her on the street, grabbed her, and took her cellphone, while she was holding her four year old daughter. During the struggle with Lopez, the four-year-old hit the ground, resulting in pain on her hip and leg.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Efren Iglesia presided over the trial. Sentencing is scheduled for April 5, 2017.

Monterey County Sheriff's Detective Rick Jorgensen, Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Monahan, and Fish and Game Warden Tyson Quintal investigated this case.

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