

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

PASO ROBLES PAROLEE SENTENCED TO PRISON AFTER ENTERING NO CONTEST PLEA TO POSSESSION OF A LOADED FIREARM AND A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

October 25, 2017

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Paso Robles resident Lauro Valenzuela, age 32, was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison for possessing a loaded firearm and a controlled substance.

On October 23, 2016, at approximately 10:30 pm, Greenfield police officers were on routine patrol near the intersection of San Antonio Drive and Oak Avenue and observed a pickup truck being driven without its headlights illuminated. The officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop for the observed Vehicle Code violation. Upon contacting the driver, Valenzuela, the officers noticed an open 24-ounce can of Budweiser in the center console and proceeded to search his car.

Valenzuela, who was on parole for a narcotics-related offense, had a loaded, stolen .357 magnum revolver concealed directly underneath the driver's seat and 6.5 grams of methamphetamine hidden inside of a Marlboro cigarette box. In the back-passenger area of the pickup truck, officers found his semi-automatic, 12-gauge, sawed off shotgun. They also found marijuana, a marijuana smoking pipe, and four cell phones in the car.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Valenzuela to two years in state prison.

This case was investigated by Greenfield Police Officers Raul Garcia and L. Guzman.

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