

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

GREENFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS IN PRISON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Greenfield resident Juan Rojas, age 33, was sentenced on October 26, 2017 to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to committing domestic violence, making criminal threats, manufacturing “pruno” while incarcerated, and resisting arrest.

On January 1, 2016, at approximately 8:23am, Rojas, who was on probation for assaulting a different woman, became enraged when his probation officer went to his mother’s house and told her there was a warrant for his arrest. Rojas believed his new girlfriend was involved, and punched her in the face in retaliation. Later that day, he punched her again, this time in front of her four-year-old child. When Jane Doe tried to call 911, he broke her cell phone. He then threw her to the floor, kicked her, and threatened to kill her. Jane Doe was visibly injured in the attack; her mouth was cut and still bleeding when officers arrived.

On May 21, 2016, Greenfield Police Officer Christopher Webb observed Rojas riding a bicycle at approximately 10:36pm. Officer Webb immediately recognized Rojas, knew he had two felony warrants for his arrest, and knew Rojas was considered armed and dangerous. When Officer Webb attempted to detain Rojas, Rojas dropped the bike and fled. Officer Webb initiated a foot pursuit, during which Rojas tossed his jacket and an unidentified black metal object. Rojas was finally apprehended after he ran onto the front lawn of a residence and then began to circle behind a vehicle. Fearing Rojas had a weapon, Officer Webb deployed his Taser and safely apprehended Rojas. Officers later re-traced Rojas’s route and did not locate the bike, jacket, or metal object.

While Rojas was in custody at the Monterey County Jail, deputies located 2.5 gallons of “pruno,” a jail-made alcoholic beverage, inside a trash bag concealed in Rojas’ jail cell toilet.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Rojas to nine years in state prison, and issued a criminal protective order to prohibit Rojas from contacting Doe for the next ten years. Rojas’s sentence was enhanced due to a prior prison commitment and a prior “strike” conviction under California’s Three Strikes Law. Judge Burlison also imposed five years and eight months, to be run concurrently, for a separate domestic violence conviction Rojas sustained in 2014.

These cases were investigated by Monterey County Deputy Sheriffs Shaun Moran, Greenfield Police Officer Christopher Webb, and Salinas Police Officer Adolfo Lopez.

If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence and need assistance, call the YWCA at 831-372-6300 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

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