

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**MAN FOUND GUILTY OF BATTERY AND
DRUG POSSESSION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on December 12, 2018, after a two-day jury trial, Diego Avalos, age 34, was found guilty of battery, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia.

On August 8, 2018, Jane Doe, age 17 at the time, boarded a Monterey-Salinas Transit bus in Salinas after school, on her way home to Greenfield. She sat in a seat near the rear portion of the bus, which was relatively secluded from the rest of the passengers. Avalos also boarded the MST bus in Salinas and sat nearby Doe. During the bus ride, Avalos attempted to converse with Doe while in transit from Salinas to Greenfield, but Doe kept to herself and eventually rested her head against her seat and dozed off.

When the bus reached the Greenfield area, Avalos got up from his seat, noticed that Doe was now asleep, and then lunged toward her and wrapped his arms around her. At trial, Doe testified that she was frightened and in shock, and that it felt as if Avalos was trying to “force her down.” Video surveillance from the MST bus which showed the attack was played at trial. When Doe awoke to Avalos’ advances, she shoved him off of her and reported the attack to the bus driver, who called the police.

Greenfield Police arrived on scene and located Avalos who was passed out on a bench at the rear of the bus. Avalos was arrested, and officers located methamphetamine and a methamphetamine smoking pipe on his person.

The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez. Judge Vazquez sentenced Avalos to 100 days in county jail and 3 years of court probation.

Greenfield Police Officers Santiago and Lemons investigated the case.

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