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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 10, 2008
Re: Murder Conviction

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Adam Valdobinos, age 29, of Oakdale, was convicted on July 7, 2008 of second degree murder with the use of a knife after a jury trial in Department 6 which started on June 23. Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Casey prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on October 12, 2003 in Modesto. Mr. Jesse Watson drove to the Camaron Villa Apartments on Mark Randy Place off McHenry about 1 am to find his nephew. Defendant Valdobinos was standing with several others by the parking lot where Mr. Watson parked. Mr. Watson approached the group and asked about his nephew. Valdobinos and his friends did not like African-Americans and took offense at Mr. Watson, who was African-American, speaking to them. Valdobinos made a rude comment to Mr. Watson and when Mr. Watson replied, Valdobinos immediately attacked Mr. Watson with a knife stabbing him in the abdomen and chest and slashing his face. Mr. Watson died from his wounds during surgery later that morning.

Valdobinos is facing 16 years to life for this second degree murder and is charged in another murder case that is set for trial on October 15 in Department 6.

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