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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: December 14, 2005
Re: Nathan Lee Spratley

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that Nathan Lee Spratley, age 43, of Hughson, was convicted after a jury trial on December 9, 2005 of attempted grand theft. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case.

The case arose out of events which occurred on December 4, 2004 in Modesto. Mr. Spratley was in the middle of digging out a 15-foot palm tree from the front yard of a residence when he was arrested. The value of the palm tree is estimated at \$1500 wholesale, and \$5000 retail.

Mr. Spratley has a prior prison commitment which could increase his sentence by one year.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2006 before the Honorable Loretta Begen. His maximum exposure is 2 years and 6 months in state prison.

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