



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 16, 2010
Re: James Haberkam
Conviction for Attempted Murder

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that a jury convicted James Oliver Haberkam, Sr., age 49, of Modesto, of attempted murder and assault with a firearm for a shooting incident that occurred at Donnelly Park in Turlock on September 29, 2007. The evidence presented at trial showed that the defendant was upset when the victim (his girlfriend of 10 years) ended their relationship and began seeing another man. The defendant asked the victim to meet him and discuss bills related to the apartment they shared. When the victim arrived at the park, the defendant grabbed her and showed her a gun. He threatened to kill the victim and her new boyfriend, then kill himself. She broke free from his grip and tried to flee. The defendant pulled out the 380 semi-automatic handgun and shot her once in her back. Members of the Turlock Police Department and California State University Police arrived quickly and pulled the victim to safety. A 5 hour-long standoff ensued between the defendant and SWAT. The defendant finally put down his firearm and surrendered. The Honorable Judge Timothy Salter presided over the jury trial and he will impose sentence on March 16th. The defendant faces a life term for attempted murder, with a minimum parole eligibility of 25 years under the "10-20-Life Law" for discharging a firearm and causing great bodily injury.

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