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PRESS RELEASE
*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Travis James Blair Convicted of Assault by Force Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury and an Enhancement for Personally Inflicting Great Bodily Injury

On March 29, 2022, a Merced County jury found the defendant Travis James Blair, a 34 year old man from Delhi, guilty of a violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(4), Assault by Means of Force Likely to Produce Great Bodily Injury, a felony. The jury also found the enhancement true that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury the victim within the meaning of Penal Code section 12022.7(a). The Honorable Judge Steven K. Slocum presided over the trial. Mr. Blair will appear before Judge Slocum on April 26, 2022 for sentencing. He faces up to 7 years in prison.

On November 13, 2021, the Merced County Sheriff's Department responded to a home near Griffith Avenue and August Avenue between Delhi and Hilmar in Merced County for a report of an assault. One witness and the victim identified Mr. Blair as the attacker. Mr. Blair had fled the scene on a motorcycle prior to first responders arriving.

On December 17, 2021, Mr. Blair was located and arrested for the assault. During the jury trial, two eyewitnesses testified to seeing Mr. Blair attack the victim with a wrench, hitting him in the head repeatedly. The victim also testified about what he could remember of the assault. The assault produced a laceration to the victim's head requiring several staples to close. Mr. Blair, two of his family members, and his girlfriend testified that he was at the Travel Lodge in Turlock and never left his hotel on the day of the incident.

In addition to finding Mr. Blair guilty, the jury found the following sentencing factors in aggravation true as well: the crime involved acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, or callousness; the defendant used a weapon at the time of the commission of the crime; and the victim was particularly vulnerable. Deputy District Attorney Sara Rosenthal prosecuted the case.