



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Wife Who Shot Husband Held to Answer for Murder

An Oroville wife and mother appeared in Butte County Superior Court yesterday facing a charge of murder, and after a preliminary hearing, was held to answer for shooting her husband on November 6, 2020 in Oroville.

Jessica Nichols, 23, of Oroville, appeared in court yesterday and heard the evidence supporting the judge's decision to uphold the murder and weapon charges brought by Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey. Ramsey said the evidence presented to the judge at yesterday's hearing showed Nichols shot her husband, Mateo Lange, 22, several times with a handgun in their Grand Avenue apartment. Neighbors told Oroville police they first heard two shots come from the couple's apartment approximately 6:45 a.m. and then Nichols came from the apartment with the couple's 22-month-old son and gave the boy to a neighbor. Nichols then returned to the apartment and a final shot was heard. Oroville police officers responded and found Nichols with the handgun. She was disarmed and arrested.

Judge Jesus Rodriguez ruled over the hearing, and found there was sufficient evidence to proceed to trial in the murder case against Nichols. Judge Rodriguez scheduled Nichols' case for arraignment and jury trial setting on July 1, 2021. Nichols' bail was previously set at \$2,050,000, and she remains in custody.

