

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**PRUNEDALE MAN PLEADS
TO PATRICIDE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Matthew Roberts, age 35, of Salinas, pled guilty to the voluntary manslaughter of his father including additional enhancements for prior violent convictions. He will be sentenced on April 19, 2016 by the Honorable Carrie Panetta to a possible maximum term of twenty-two years in state prison. His plea to voluntary manslaughter constitutes a strike offense under California's Three Strikes Law.

On February 16, 2015, Salinas police officers discovered the body of victim Jerry Roberts, then age 71, in a box within a travel trailer parked in front of the victim's Salinas residence. His body was wrapped in plastic and bed sheets. Officers responded because the victim's daughter became concerned after she was not able to contact her father for over a week to include his recent birthday. The investigation led to the arrest of the victim's grown son Matthew Roberts who lived with the victim. Materials used to wrap the victim's body matched items found in the Robert's house where they both lived. The medical examiner estimated the victim was dead for approximately seven to ten days before his body was found. Investigators discovered that the defendant was using the victim's truck and withdrew money from his bank account during that seven to ten day period his father was dead.

The case was investigated by Salinas Detective Michael Rivera and former Salinas Detective Dale Fors.