

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **THREE WOMEN CONVICTED FOR ROBBERIES IN SALINAS AND SEASIDE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Today's date: February 2, 2017**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on February 1, 2017, Sara Uresti, age 23, entered pleas of no contest to robbery with the personal use of a deadly weapon and grand theft person. On the same date, Tahja Barth, age 24, entered a plea of no contest to attempted robbery. And on January 18, 2017, Karisma Aldana, age 23, entered a plea of no contest to robbery. Uresti also admitted serving a prior prison term. Barth admitted violations of her two grants of felony probation for accessory to commit robbery and possession of a deadly weapon.

On October 12, 2016 Uresti and Barth entered Outdoor World in Seaside. Uresti took an air-soft gun and placed it in Barth's purse without paying for it. Barth put on a pair of boots from the store and walked out without paying. When a loss prevention officer tried to contact Barth about the stolen boots, Uresti pulled out a knife and threatened the officer.

On October 19, 2016 Uresti and Aldana entered the Ulta Beauty Salon in the Northridge Shopping Center in Salinas. An employee confronted Aldana, who had tried to exit the store without paying for some merchandise. Aldana shoved the employee. Another employee confronted Uresti who had some stolen merchandise. Uresti pulled out the stolen air-soft gun from Outdoor World and threatened the employee with it.

Uresti will be sentenced to 5 years in state prison. Barth will be sentenced to 3 years and 4 months in state prison. They are scheduled to be sentenced on March 3, 2017, by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu. Aldana will be placed on formal probation but still faces up to a year in county jail at sentencing. She is set to be sentenced on February 22, 2017, by Judge Liu.