

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTIFY THEFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2017

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on March 7, 2017 Mary Yanez, age 37, of Salinas, pled guilty to one count of felony identify theft, as well as enhancements for a prior strike conviction and a prior prison commitment, for a stipulated sentence of five years in prison.

On November 27, 2016, an unidentified person entered the victim's Salinas home in the middle of the night. The victim awoke to strange noises in his kitchen. When he got out of bed to investigate, the startled burglar fled through the kitchen and out the backyard, taking the victim's wallet.

Within moments of this burglary, the defendant was captured on surveillance video at a nearby 7-11 convenience store. There, the defendant twice used the victim's stolen credit card to purchase alcohol and small food items in the amount of approximately \$51.34. She then made a third and final unauthorized charge of \$1.64 at the store's Red-Box DVD rental.

The defendant returned to the same 7-11 on January 10, 2017. Eagle-eyed store employees recognized the defendant as a fraud suspect, and immediately called 911. The defendant was taken into custody without incident.

Judge Robert A. Burlison will sentence the defendant to five years in state prison on April 25, 2017.

This case was investigated by Officers Raul Rosales and Guadalupe Gonzales of the Salinas Police Department.

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