

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR EVADING POLICE OFFICERS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Jessica Wright, age 26, was sentenced on August 31, 2017 to two years in prison for evading Salinas police officers in a dangerous, high-speed pursuit.

On March 20, 2017, at approximately 10:15am, Salinas Police Officer Tyler Provost noticed Wright sleeping behind the wheel in the Walmart parking lot. When Officer Provost contacted Wright, she provided a fake name, and the officer noticed that the vehicle registration tabs were also false. When Officer Provost stepped back from the vehicle to verify Wright's identity, she turned the engine on and fled the parking lot at a high rate of speed. Officer Provost pursued, but Wright ignored Provost's emergency lights and siren. The pursuit lasted about a mile and a half, during which time Wright drove sixty to eighty miles per hour on North Davis Road, running numerous lights and a stop sign. The pursuit was ultimately terminated in the interest of public and officer safety.

Officers later found the vehicle Wright was driving abandoned in a nearby neighborhood. A search of the car yielded methamphetamine paraphernalia. Officers were unable to locate the registered owner to determine whether it was stolen.

On August 31, 2017, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Wright to two years in the California Department of Corrections.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Officer Tyler Provost.

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