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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 1, 2022
Re: Julia Ann Smith
Embezzlement Conviction and prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California- Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Julia Ann Smith, age 25, of Manteca was convicted on June 15, 2022 of embezzlement and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Harshan Samra prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Smith was the bookkeeper for a local company and altered company computer files in order to embezzle money from the business in the total amount of \$680,000.00. Her crimes were discovered when a computer technician was called to the company to help fix a computer. The company then hired a second bookkeeper to audit their financial files and confirmed the theft had occurred over a period of time. When confronted by the business owner, Smith was unable to provide an explanation for the discrepancies.

Sheriff's Investigator Juan Rodriguez authored search warrants for several online accounts that were opened by Smith without company approval. One Amazon business account had a total of 7,813 items ordered between December of 2017 and December of 2020. Smith had these items sent to her home in Manteca. Additional purchases were made through Costco, Target and WalMart that added up to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As the investigation unfolded, Smith fled from California to Texas to escape prosecution. She was arrested there and extradited back to Stanislaus County to stand trial on felony charges of theft by embezzlement with an enhancement for the taking of more than \$500,000.00, identity theft, misuse of personal identifying information and forgery.

During a June 15, 2022 court appearance before Judge Kellee C. Westbrook, Smith pled no contest to Count 1 and guilty to Counts 2, 3 and 4. She was then sentenced to serve three years and eight months in state prison.

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