Merced Police Department

NEWS RELEASE

June 11, 2014

Captain Tom Trindad
Office: (209) 385-6233
Dispatch: (209) 385-6905

For Immediate Release

Date and Time: June 11, 2014 @ 9:30am
Location: 500 BLK of Santa Clara Street Merced
Incident: Identity theft crimes
Arrested Person: Christine Melton DOB 5-28-65
Case Number: 2014-4591

The Merced Police Department's Investigation Unit (High-Tech Crimes) arrested a person involved an access card theft ring. Detective Dabney was contacted by the Save Mart Corporation who had discovered a group of individuals who were stealing account information from Save Mart gift cards. Detective Dabney identified Christine Melton as one of the responsibles in the theft ring. On June 11, 2014 at 9:30am, Detectives from the Merced Police Department served a search warrant at the Melton's residence and they found items used to steal access card information (skimmers/power of sales box). In addition, Detectives found mail and credit cards belonging to different people who did not live at the house. Detectives also recovered stolen property from a Wal-Greens store.

Melton was arrested for burglary, forgery, theft of access cards and possession of stolen property. She was booked into the Merced County Sheriff's Department Correctional Facility. Detective Dabney is conducting further investigation and future arrests may result from the investigation.

Police Officers are asking anyone with any information regarding this incident to contact Detective Dan Dabney at (209) 388-7719, or the Merced Police Department Tipster Line at (209) 385-4725. The public can send information via anonymous text messages to police department by dialing "TIP411" (847411) and including the word "ComVIP" as the "keyword" in the text message.

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