

Office of the
**MERCED COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Chief Deputy District Attorney
MATTHEW T. SERRATTO

Chief Deputy District Attorney
DAVID R. ELGIN

Interim Chief Deputy District Attorney
THOMAS M. PFEIFF



District Attorney
KIMBERLY R. H. LEWIS

Chief Investigator
WILLIAM K. OLSON

Director of Administrative Services
YVONNE M. BURNS

Victim Witness Program Director
LISA DeSANTIS

PRESS RELEASE

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Contact: Gerad Egan
Number: (209) 385-7381

Date: March 14, 2022



On March 10, 2022, a Merced County jury found Yvette Marie Simmons, 57, guilty of the offense of receiving stolen property. The charge stemmed from a burglary at a Merced storage company in 2018.

Simmons conspired with Ernest Lovett, 37, to enter into the storage facility and steal property from storage lockers. The stolen property consisted of musical instruments and equipment worth about \$150,000. The Merced Police Department traced some of the stolen property to a storage company in Tracy where Simmons had rented a storage unit. Merced Police Department Detective John Pinnegar was the lead investigator on the case. Lovett was previously convicted of burglary and theft charges for his role in this incident.

Sentencing is set for April 4, 2022, in the courtroom of Judge Ronald Hansen. The victim on this case made the following statement thanking Deputy District Attorney Egan:

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate all your hard work and patience with me, during these last few years. . . . Now the case is in the hands of the judge and he will follow the rules that he must and along with his judgement, complete the sentencing process. I've come to the point over the last few years, that seeing Simmons be held accountable and put on record for her actions is very gratifying. I've also come to accept within myself completely and with humility, that her punishment and agreed to restitution, will be for the court to decide. You have schooled me in this and your efforts have gone way beyond the prosecution of this case, but also has done so much to assist me and my wife to overcome and now move on from this terrible loss and sad chapter in or lives. Thanks again and we will always hold a special respect and admiration for you, sir.

###