



Perkins County Sheriff's Office

"Protecting & Serving Perkins County Since 1888"

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

November 24, 2004 4:00 p.m. MDT

**California Woman Faces Extradition
and Local Criminal Charges**

An extradition hearing for 28-year-old Melinda L. Rodriguez of Grant was held in the Keith County Court on Tuesday afternoon, November 23, 2004. At the hearing Rodriguez waived extradition setting in motion her return from Nebraska to California to face criminal charges there.

Perkins County Sheriff's Office personnel learned that 28-year-old Rodriguez was wanted on an outstanding felony contempt of court warrant issued by the Sonoma County Superior Court in Sonoma County, California on November 17, 2004 stemming from original charges in Sonoma County on June 22, 2004 of transportation of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and possession of burglary tools

Perkins County Sheriff's Office personnel became aware of the California warrant following their November 19, 2004 arrest of 28-year-old Rodriguez on a Perkins County Court bench warrant for failure to appear in Perkins County Court. Rodriguez had been scheduled to be arraigned in Perkins County Court November 18, 2004 on charges filed by the Perkins County Attorney's Office of disturbing the peace, a class III misdemeanor, and domestic assault in the third degree, a class I misdemeanor, following the November 6, 2004 response by Perkins County Sheriff's Office personnel to two disturbances that occurred at Rodriguez's residence between she and her boyfriend, 22-year-old David S. Rodrigues of Grant.

The Perkins County Attorney's Office has also filed charges against 28-year-old Rodriguez for theft by deception and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, both class I misdemeanors. The charges were filed as a result of an investigation conducted by the Perkins County Sheriff's Office on November 17, 2004 in which Rodriguez was alleged, in the days prior to the investigation, to have provided two checks taken from two separate Grant churches, to a 17-year-old Grant male and then convinced the male subject to deposit the checks into his bank account using his ATM card, withdraw the funds and then return the funds to Rodriguez. The 17-year-old male involved in the check-cashing incident made restitution to his bank, the checks were returned to the local churches and no charges have been filed against the youth.

Other charges pending against 28-year-old Rodriguez in Perkins County Court are those of being a fugitive from justice due to the outstanding Sonoma County, California contempt of court warrant for Rodriguez.

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office personnel will arrive in Nebraska and transport 28-year-old Rodriguez back to Santa Rosa in Sonoma County, California within the next two weeks.

The Perkins County Attorney's Office will review all pending charges filed against 28-year-old Rodriguez in Perkins County following her extradition to California.

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