



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Alleged Real Life Christmas Grinch Jailed Charged with Stealing Christmas Displays

A Chico man is a real-life “Grinch” according to the Butte County District Attorney’s Office, charged with stealing expensive inflatable Christmas displays from various lawns and businesses of the good Who’s of Chico-ville.

Wayland Rudd, 38, was captured during his attempt to steal Christmas from Chico after one of the good Who’s reported seeing him stealing Christmas decorations from a north Chico motel.

Chico police tracked him down late Tuesday night and found him in possession of a stolen inflatable penguin from the motel plus other inflatables from other areas of Chico including a 6.5-foot-tall inflatable Grinch with a chimney, a 6-foot-tall inflatable unicorn with a wreath, a 3.5-foot-tall inflatable unicorn, a 7-foot-tall Santa on a motorcycle, and a large inflatable Santa in a firetruck. The items totaled over \$1,000 in value and he was arrested for felony possession of over \$950 of stolen property.

Wayland’s theft of the inflatable Santa in a firetruck was captured on a home surveillance video from a residence off Eaton Road. A community group on Facebook posted the video depicting a male adult as he slithered and slunk on the ground, stealing the inflatable from the resident’s yard earlier in the week.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said his office today charged Rudd with the felony possession charge and he was arraigned in Butte County Superior Court this afternoon.

Ramsey said he asked the judge to hold Rudd in custody in lieu of \$15,000 bail, noting the real-life Grinch “had a heart two sizes too small.” The judge set the bail as requested, appointed a public defender and set Rudd’s case for entry of plea next Thursday, December 29, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., and remanded him to the custody of the Butte County Jail where he will spend Christmas.

