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PRESS RELEASE

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Suspect Charged in Sunglasses Hut Burglaries

One of the thieves suspected in a high-dollar theft from a sunglass store in the Chico Marketplace (formerly the Chico Mall) was arraigned on burglary/grand theft charges in Butte County Superior Court today.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the Sunglass Hut has been the victim of a series of “grab and bag” thefts dating back to July 2021. Ramsey said **Ryan Arnold, 23**, of Sacramento appeared in court today on the burglary and theft charges and was additionally charged with two prior strike convictions for Sacramento robberies from 2018.

Ramsey said it was alleged Ryan and three other persons entered the Sunglass Hut on January 13, 2022 during the day and began grabbing expensive sunglasses from the racks and stuffing them in bags before running from the store. The thieves were alleged to have stolen over \$31,000 in sunglasses from the store.

The next day, Ramsey said Arnold and three other persons were seen lurking outside the store, but saw the store was only allowing one person in at a time. The clerk from the previous day's theft recognized Arnold and contacted Chico Police. A responding officer saw the persons matching the clerk's description leaving the mall in a vehicle driven by Arnold. Ramsey said Arnold drove quickly from the area and abandoned the vehicle a short distance away. Officers found and arrested him on foot in the neighborhood. Ramsey said \$3,000 of sunglasses stolen the day before from the Chico Sunglass Hut were found in the Arnold car.

Ramsey said Judge Jesus Rodriguez set Arnold's bail at \$390,000 at the District Attorney's request and continued the case for further arraignment to tomorrow. Arnold faces a maximum sentence of 6 years in state prison.

Ramsey said the Chico Police Department continues to investigate the other burglaries at the store and the identity of other involved suspects. If you have any information about the other individuals involved in these burglaries, please notify the Chico Police Department Detectives Bureau.