

Yuma woman charged in possible embezzlement

[BY JAMES GILBERT, SUN STAFF WRITER](#)

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A Yuma woman accused of stealing more than \$140,000 from David's Custom Welding was charged with one count of theft.

Laurie Arechiga, of 2716 S. 17th Ave., who was previously employed as a bookkeeper for the business at 1875 E. 9th St., was arraigned Friday before Yuma Justice of the Peace Pro Tem Yolanda Torok.

According to a Yuma Police Department news release, an investigation which began in January revealed that Arechiga had allegedly stolen a large sum of cash from the welding shop, dating back to 2003.

Police seized more than 150 items of evidence Tuesday from her home, including six all-terrain vehicles, five vehicles, one sandrail and one golf cart, and booked Arechiga into the county jail, according to YPD spokesman Clint Norred.

David's Custom Welding co-owners David and Donna Davis, who attended Arechiga's initial hearing on Wednesday, said in a previous article in The Sun that the amount Arechiga allegedly embezzled could increase based on an audit being conducted which dates back to September 2003, when she was hired by the company.

The co-owners also expressed concerns on Wednesday that some of Arechiga's assets may be in Mexico with family members, but Arechiga's husband and mother said they are estranged from their Mexican relatives.

Donna Davis also told The Sun the alleged embezzlement became apparent when Arechiga began "flaunting it."

Arechiga, whose bond was reduced to \$50,000, told the court during Friday's arraignment that she has retained her own attorney.

Her next court date is a preliminary hearing at 3 p.m. on April 27.

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