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DNA from bloody Cheektowaga burglary scene helps crack 2017 case

By **Maki Becker** (https://buffalonews.com/author/maki_becker/) | Published May 31, 2019 | Updated May 31, 2019

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When a burglar broke into a house on Gardenvale Drive in Cheektowaga on July 17, 2017, he cut his hand on a broken window. That was his first mistake.

Bleeding inside the house was his second and what led to his conviction this week on burglary charges.

Jose Mendoza, 50, pleaded guilty Thursday to a felony count of second-degree attempted burglary before Erie County Court Judge James Bargnesi. He faces up to seven years in prison when he is sentenced Aug. 12.

Cheektowaga police submitted the blood evidence from the crime to a statewide data bank, the District Attorney's Office said. Eventually, the DNA came back to a match to Mendoza, who had been required to submit a DNA sample due to a misdemeanor conviction in February 2018, prosecutors said.

In 2012, the state began requiring defendants convicted of misdemeanors to submit DNA for the database, in addition to people convicted for felonies.



(https://buffalonews.com/author/maki_becker/) **Maki Becker** – Maki Becker has been a staff reporter at The Buffalo News since 2005. Before that, she worked at the New York Daily News and the Charlotte Observer.

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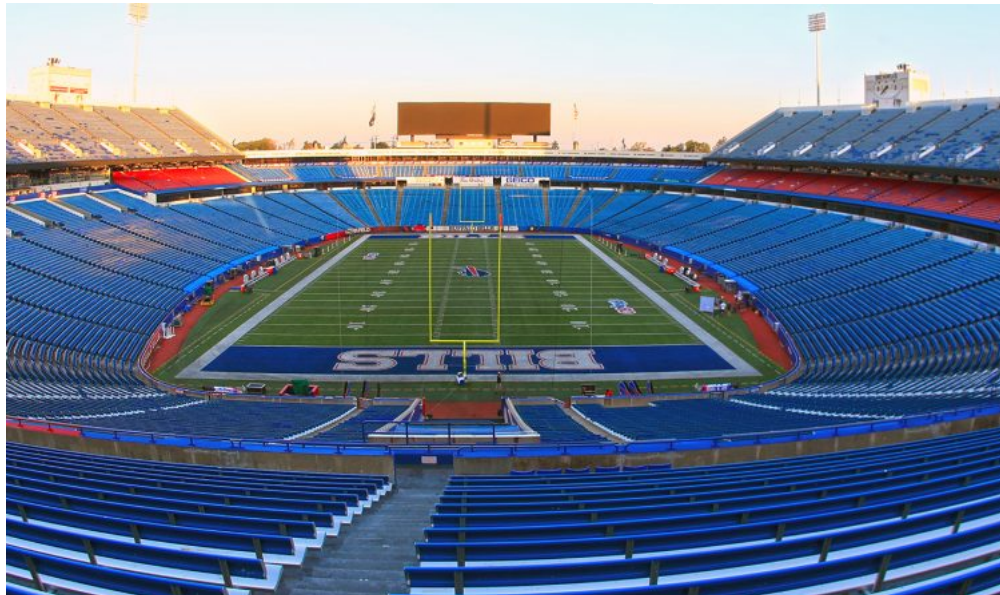
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