

ANOTHER PLEA IN TURKEY CASE

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The Selden teen who signed the credit card receipt for the 20- pound turkey that was tossed through Victoria Ruvolo's windshield two months ago pleaded guilty yesterday to a forgery charge.

Rachel MacDonald, 17, stood before Suffolk County Court Judge Barbara Kahn and acknowledged her role in the Nov. 13 incident in which Ruvolo, 44, of Lake Ronkonkoma, was critically injured.

MacDonald will be sentenced March 24 on the misdemeanor charge of third-degree forgery and likely will receive a sentence of 3 years' probation as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors.

Peter Mayer, chief of the major crime bureau for the Suffolk district's attorney's office, recounted the events of that night, asking MacDonald if it was true that she signed for the turkey and other items she and a group of friends purchased with a stolen credit card. She answered "yes" to Mayer's questions.

Prosecutors say that after leaving the Lake Ronkonkoma Waldbaum's where they bought the turkey, MacDonald rode with her boyfriend, Jack Cutrone, 18, of Selden, and his cousin Ryan Cushing, 18, of Huntington, who police say threw the turkey through Ruvolo's windshield as she was driving westbound on Portion Road, smashing her face.

Ruvolo underwent surgery last week to have her tracheotomy tube and some metal from her mouth removed, Ruvolo's Patchogue attorney Paul Feuer said yesterday. "She is slowly improving and in better spirits."

MacDonald, who was accompanied by her mother, declined to comment after her plea. MacDonald's attorney, Michael Brown of Central Islip, emphasized that she "had no knowledge" of Cushing's intentions.

"Mr. Cushing on his own decided to throw the turkey out the window," said Brown, who added his client has expressed "her remorse and sorrow" and is praying for Ruvolo. "If she could turn back the hands of time, she would never have been in that vehicle," Brown said.

Three other defendants involved in the incident are scheduled to appear in court today. Cushing is charged with assault. Michael Hasbrouck, 18,

and Steven Manzolina, 17, both of Selden, are charged with grand larceny and possession of stolen property. Cutrone and Amanda McDonald, 17, have both pleaded guilty to their roles in the crime.