



Fresno County Sheriff's Department

**Richard Pierce, Sheriff
News Release**

June 9, 2005

**Lt. Dale Caudle
Special Investigations
452-1295**

MARIJUANA ERADICATIONS AND ARRESTS

On 6-7-05 at approximately 1030 hrs Metro NET, N/E SNET, S/W SNET and CVMIT (Central Valley Marijuana Investigation Team) served two search warrants in the rural Caruthers area. This investigation involved the cultivation of marijuana in vineyards. Detectives located marijuana plants growing in two vineyards. There was processed marijuana and a processing area located at one of the search locations. Detectives eradicated 32,126 marijuana plants from the first vineyard and 14,554 marijuana plants from the second.. Detectives located approximately 20 pounds of processed marijuana. Detectives eradicated a total of 46,680 marijuana plants from both vineyards. Detectives seized two ounces of methamphetamine and (39) firearms from both addresses. One of the firearms was believed to be an automatic assault rifle. The eradication effort took detectives two full days. The following subjects were arrested: Antonio Alvarez DOB: 1-20-85, Saul Juarez, DOB: 4-15-76 and Claudio Lopez, DOB: 2-16-77 for being armed while committing a felony, conspiring to cultivate and possess marijuana for sales. Juarez was also arrested for possessing methamphetamine for sales. Diana Petroff, DOB:5-26-48 lived at one of the locations. Petroff was arrested for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and being in possession of a sawed-off shotgun. Baldev Singh Purewal, DOB 3-27-49 is believed to be the owner of both properties. Purewal is a suspect in this investigation and has not been arrested. The eradication and destruction process has been completed. Detectives are currently attempting to locate Purewal and arrest him for his involvement in the cultivation of marijuana.