



**Fresno County Sheriff's Office**  
**Margaret Mims, Sheriff**      **January 31, 2008**  
**News Release**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: Anonymous Tip Leads To Arrest In  
Burglary Of West Side Gin**

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of a Tranquility man in connection with a burglary of the Westside Farmers Cooperative Gin in San Joaquin. Arrested was 28 year old Esteban Cortez.

The burglary was reported on the morning of January 28<sup>th</sup> when the superintendent arrived at the gin. Several hundred tools and power tools had been stolen with an estimated value of \$14,000.00. Evidence discovered at the scene showed that the suspect's vehicle may have struck a weigh station pole while leaving.

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, acting on an anonymous tip, deputies, along with detectives from the Fresno Ag Task Force, responded to a residence located at 25000 block of Randolph St. in the town of Tranquility. A blue Chevy Blazer was parked in the driveway with several tools inside.

Cortez was then contacted at the residence. The investigation revealed that Cortez was responsible for the burglary. He was arrested and later booked into the Fresno County Jail.

A majority of the stolen property has been recovered.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the Fresno County Sheriff's Office at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).

**\*\*\*Photos attached\*\*\***