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For immediate release

Conta Birgit Fladager

Date March 27, 2006 _____

Chief Deputy District

Re: Galas convicted of 8 robberies

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Modesto, California - The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office announced today that Greydon Galas, 46, of Modesto pleaded guilty to eight robberies committed in 2004. Mr. Galas was scheduled for trial starting Monday, March 27, but instead pled guilty to all charged robberies.

A replica firearm was recovered, and was identified by witnesses as the weapon used in some of the robberies. The replica had a laser sight.

Mr. Galas pleaded guilty to the following robberies:

- On February 23, 2004, Galas entered the Best Buy on Sisk Avenue and threatened employees with what appeared to be a gun. A year prior, Galas had been an employee of the store.

- On April 26, 2004, Galas went into Kohl's on Plaza Parkway and simulated a gun in his jacket pocket. He got away with the contents of the cash register.

- On May 1, 2004, Galas robbed the Toys R Us on Sisk Avenue, again using the replica gun to get money from cashiers.

- On May 4, 2004, Galas robbed the Blockbuster Video store on East Hatch Road. He once again used the gun to force an employee to give him money from a cash register.

- In the early afternoon of May 5, 2004, Defendant robbed the Payless Shoe Store on Plaza Parkway. Defendant pointed the laser sight at a female employee's stomach and demanded money. Defendant also stole a pair of shoes.

- Later on the afternoon of May 5, 2004, Defendant robbed the Hollywood Video store with his replica gun. Defendant took both money from the cash register and a "Big Fish" video.

- On the evening of May 5, 2004, Defendant waited until closing at the Radio Shack in Ceres, then pointed his gun at two employees and ordered them to empty the register.

- On May 10, 2004, Defendant robbed a cashier at Mervyn's, once again using the replica gun. Modesto Police Department Officer Greg Granis saw a black Mercedes Benz which matched a description of the car used in the robberies. Granis pulled Galas over, and found the replica gun, stolen money from the Mervyn's robbery, and sunglasses and a leather jacket matching clothing the robber wore.

A subsequent search of Galas's living quarters led to the discovery of the stolen "Big Fish" video, the shoes stolen from Payless, and other items connected with the robberies. About two dozen law enforcement officers from the Modesto Police Department and Ceres Police Department were involved in the investigation and solving of these crimes. MPD Detective Al Brocchini was the lead investigator.

The case was prosecuted under the Career Criminal Act. At the time of the scheduled trial and actual plea, Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne was prosecuting the case for the Career Criminal Prosecution unit.

Galas is scheduled to be sentenced on April 10, 2006; he is expected to receive a sentence of eight years in state prison. With good time credits,

Defendant will likely serve about seven years in custody.

All eight robberies are “strikes” under California’s Three Strikes Law. Under current law, Mr. Galas will receive at least 25 years to life for his next felony conviction

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