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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 24, 2011

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jesus Cervantes- Montanez, Jr  
Carjacker Gets 5 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Cervantes-Montanez, Jr, age 32, of Turlock, was convicted on February 24, 2011 of carjacking, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law. Cervantes- Montanez had previously served a prison term for a theft conviction from February 2006. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On Saturday morning, May 23, 2009 at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the area of Locust Street in Turlock, the owner of a 2001 red Chevy Tahoe SUV started her vehicle that was parked in her driveway. The victim then left her vehicle warming up while she briefly went back inside her home to get her kids before leaving for their soccer game. Cervantes- Montanez and his brother lived two blocks away and were walking down the street when they observed the running, but unattended, Chevy Tahoe in the victim’s driveway. Cervantes- Montanez’s brother then jumped into the driver’s seat of the Tahoe and began to drive away. The victim’s 11-year-old son saw the family car being driven away so he ran after and tried to grab the door handle. Cervantes-Montanez was still outside the SUV and pushed the boy away from the vehicle. Cervantes-Montanez then jumped into the passenger side of the vehicle. The boy was not hurt and was able to get a good look at the brothers. Cervantes-Montanez and his brother were located and arrested several hours later while still in the stolen vehicle in Tuolumne County. After Cervantes-Montanez pled guilty to possession of the stolen vehicle in Tuolumne County, he was extradited back to Stanislaus County to face his current carjacking charge.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Cervantes-Montanez to five years in state prison.

Cervantes- Montanez’s brother previously pled guilty in Tuolumne and Stanislaus County and was sentenced to state prison.

The District Attorney’s Office urges residents to never leave their vehicles running while unattended

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

**IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911**