

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**ABC CONDUCTS DRUG BUST ON CORNING BAR**

**Corning** – Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Special Operations Unit (SOU) have culminated a six-month investigation into sales of narcotics and stolen property resulting in the arrest of five people at the Richfield Tavern, 6161 Highway 99 West in Corning.

The conclusion of the investigation took place Tuesday night when undercover investigators negotiated for the sale of a large quantity of "crystal" methamphetamine from a waitress of the bar. ABC SOU investigators then executed a search warrant at the Corning apartment of the bartender and confiscated methamphetamine, located submerged in the apartment's toilet water tank.

SOU investigators then conducted a buy/bust with the owner of the bar for purported stolen property that had been previously sold to the licensee. Arrested on four counts of receiving stolen property was Ramon Rodriguez Garcia.

Also arrested Tuesday evening were the bartender, 26-year-old Tina Tijerina, and the apartment resident, 21 year-old Edgar Dario Mariscal, on sales of illegal drugs and conspiracy. Taken into custody on possession of drug paraphernalia were Bartender Joleen Lee Bower and another unidentified individual.

During the six-month investigation ABC investigators purchased methamphetamine on four different occasions from the two bartenders, and sold over \$700 worth of purported stolen property to the owner. On each of the sales of the purported stolen property, the owner was told by the undercover investigator that the merchandise was stolen.

Because of the illegal drug activity and the receiving stolen property charges, ABC will take administrative action against the bar's liquor license which may result in the suspension or permanent revocation of the license. A decision is expected to be made within the next 30 days.

Criminal charges on the five suspects are pending further action by the Tehama County District Attorney's Office.