

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Arrests Two Individuals for Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor
Arrests are result of ABC TRACE Investigation following Fatal Crash

Kern County - Two men were arrested Thursday for providing alcohol to a Saugus teenager who faces trial in connection with an August, 2006 fatal car crash that killed two people.

Officers from the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control arrested Alejandro Saenz, 33, and Gastone Portillo, 25, two months after they provided alcoholic drinks to Chelsea Arcos, 19.

Saenz was taken into custody on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the auto shop where he works in Gorman. ABC Investigators learned in their investigation that Saenz had been a customer at Don Pericos restaurant in Lebec on the evening of Aug. 6, 2006 when he furnished alcohol to Arcos.

Portillo, a server at the restaurant, was arrested later Thursday in Lamont.

Both face misdemeanor charges of providing alcohol to a person under age 21. They could face six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000 or both.

Investigators from ABC's Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) Program are also investigating whether to file an accusation against the Don Pericos' restaurant liquor license.

Judy Matty, ABC District Administrator thanked the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for their efforts. CHP Officers worked closely with ABC Investigators from the Department's Southern Division TRACE Unit. ABC began the investigation immediately after receiving the report and analysis of the fatal crash.

The TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors

For more information contact Gerald Ackley in ABC's Southern Division Office at (562) 467-8400.