

**SANTA BARBARA
SHERIFF'S**



**COUNTY
DEPARTMENT**

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Sheriff's Detectives Make Arrest in Copper Theft Case



Greg Contreras, 49

Goleta - June 5th, 2008

Beginning in March, 2008, the Verizon California facility located at 424 S. Patterson Ave in the City of Goleta began experiencing significant amounts of copper telephone cable thefts. The copper telephone wire was being stolen from within their fenced yard. The suspect appeared to have entered the facility at least seven times, and either damaged or stole large amounts of copper wire. Over the course of two months, more than \$10,000 worth of copper wire was stolen from this facility. Through their investigation, it was apparent to Sheriff's Detectives that the thefts were likely being committed by a person familiar with the Verizon facility.

After a two-month investigation into these thefts, Sheriff's Detectives identified 49 year old Greg Contreras as the suspect responsible for stealing the telephone cable from the facility. Greg Contreras was a former employee of Verizon, and was working as a sub-contractor for the company at the time he committed the thefts.

On June 2, 2008, Greg Contreras was arrested for Grand Theft. He was booked into the Santa Barbara County Jail in lieu of \$150,000.00 bail.

For more information regarding news related issues please contact Sgt. Alex Tipolt, Public Information Officer.

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