



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 18, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jesse Joe Cabonias, Jr

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 3 years and 8 months in prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesse Joe Cabonias Jr, age 25, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle and evading a peace officer. Cabonias also admitted an prior auto theft conviction from October 2006 for which he is currently on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on March 2, 2009 at around 2:00 pm in the area of Hatch Road and Crowslanding Road when Cabonias was driving a 1985 red Chevrolet Camaro that was reported stolen on February 26, 2009. When a California Highway Patrol officer activated his lights and siren to perform a traffic stop, Cabonias accelerated away and ran stop signs and traffic lights at Hatch Road, Crystal Avenue and Crater Avenue. Cabonias then rammed through a chain link fence at the end of Crater Avenue and drove into a muddy field before the vehicle overturned while going down an embankment. Cabonias then climbed out of the overturned vehicle, swam across the Tuolumne River, and was apprehended while running through the Dryden Park Golf Course. Cabonias claimed he was on his way to the Welfare Office when he got scared after seeing the CHP patrol car and that he might be going back to jail since he knew the vehicle was stolen.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Cabonias to three years and eight months in state prison.

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

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