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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 26, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Joshua Blane Best
Auto Thief Sentenced to
2 Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joshua Blane Best, age 21, of Keyes, was convicted on March 26, 2010 of auto theft, possession of stolen property, and resisting arrest. Best is currently in the Proposition 36 drug treatment program for a possession of methamphetamine conviction from July 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 17, 2009 at around noon during a routine probation check of Best's residence, officers located a knife that had been stolen about a month prior out of Turlock. The victim's name was engraved onto the blade of the knife.

On January 28, 2010 at around 11:17 a.m. in the area of East Keyes Road and Gratton Road in Denair, a deputy observed Best driving a 1999 maroon Ford Expedition that had been reported stolen earlier that morning out of the victim's driveway in Ceres. When the deputy tried to perform a traffic stop, Best jumped out of the vehicle and ran. Best was arrested a short distance away after a police K-9 located Best trying to hide.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Best to two years 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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