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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: January 21, 2009

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Re: Grant Edgar Dale

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Grant Edgar Dale, age 46, of Modesto, was convicted on January 21, 2010 of auto theft and possession of methamphetamine. Dale is currently on probation stemming from a June 2008 conviction for possession of methamphetamine and in the Proposition 36 drug treatment program. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

Between May 21 to May 24, 2009 in Modesto, Dale stole a 1966 white Corvette Stingray from the victim's Quonset hut on his ranch. According to the victim, the Corvette was worth \$100,000 because the car's parts are original and there are only about 30 other cars like it in the country. He had not driven his Corvette in five years and the car had four flat tires and no battery when it was stolen.

On May 28, 2009, officers from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT), acting on a tip, recovered the vehicle, and discovered that it was in better condition than when it was in storage because the defendant washed it, fixed all four flat tires, and put in a new battery hoping to sell it.

“Since there are only thirty of these rare Corvettes around,” stated Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar, “trying to resell the car was more of a curse than a treasure.”

When Dale was unable to sell the unique Stingray he concocted a plan to try and collect the \$7000 reward which eventually lead to his arrest. After being arrested, Dale posted bail and was released from custody.

On August 12, 2009 at approximately 4:30 p.m. at the Oakdale Auto Wreckers, officers performed a routine probation search and located .51 grams of methamphetamine in Dale's right front pants pocket.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Dale 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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