



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 9, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Gary Joseph Parchem, Jr
Auto Thief Sentenced
to 3 Years, 8 Months

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gary Joseph Parchem, Jr, age 19, of Empire, was convicted on April 9, 2010 of auto theft, possession of methamphetamine and resisting arrest. Parchem was on felony probation for commercial burglary from a 2008 conviction and possession of a controlled substance in jail from a 2009 conviction. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 25, 2009 at around 3:30 p.m. in the area of Rose Avenue in Modesto, an officer observed a 2006 blue Chevy Colorado pick-up truck that was parked on the side of the road. Parchem was walking away from the truck. The truck had been reported stolen on November 6, 2009 out of Modesto after the registered owner parked his vehicle for the night in his driveway but accidentally dropped the key to the truck while walking to his front door. When the officer contacted Parchem and learned he was on probation and searchable, the officer discovered that Parchem had a small baggie of methamphetamine on his person. The officer also found Parchem's property inside the stolen truck.

On March 30, 2010 at around 9:00 a.m. in the area of Yosemite Boulevard in Modesto, an officer observed Parchem driving a 1994 gold Acura Integra, that had been reported stolen on March 28, 2010 out of the registered owner's driveway in Modesto. After performing a traffic stop on the Acura, Parchem refused to comply with the officer's commands and walked away. Parchem was arrested shortly thereafter.

Upon entry of his guilty plea, Parchem was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison by the Honorable John Whiteside.

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