



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: May 5, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: David Michael Woolsey
Auto Thief Sentenced to Four Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David Michael Woolsey, age 37, of Turlock, was convicted on May 5, 2010 of two counts of auto theft, evading a peace officer, and resisting arrest. Woolsey also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from July 2005 for which he served a prison term. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 4, 2010 at about 7:00 p.m. in the area of Golden State Boulevard and Youngstown Road in Turlock, Woolsey was observed driving a 1990 blue Mazda pickup truck that had been reported stolen on March 3, 2010 out of the victim's driveway in Turlock. When an officer tried to perform a traffic stop, Woolsey stopped the vehicle and was able to run away without being apprehended.

On March 17, 2010 at around 1:00 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle speeding and then run through a posted stop sign at Pine Street and El Camino Avenue in Ceres. The vehicle was 1989 gray Nissan 240SX being driven by Woolsey, with his girlfriend in the passenger seat. When the officer tried to perform a routine traffic stop, Woolsey accelerated to over 70+ mph in a residential zone with a posted speed limit of 25 mph, ignoring several stop signs, before losing control and crashing into a drainage ditch by Highway 99. Woolsey then jumped out of the vehicle and ran across all six lanes of traffic on Highway 99. The officer and his canine, Axel, pursued Woolsey across Highway 99 and caught Woolsey trying to hide in a backyard of a residence. The officer searched Woolsey and found nine assorted shaved car keys and a glass pipe used to smoke controlled substances. When the officer contacted the registered owner of the vehicle, the owner stated that he had parked his vehicle two hours earlier in the alleyway by his apartment complex in Turlock and did not even know that his car had been stolen.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Woolsey to four 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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