



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: January 10, 2011

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Thomas Eddie Brummitt
Auto Thief Gets
3 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Thomas Eddie Brummitt, age 21, of Turlock, was convicted on January 10, 2011 of auto theft and grand theft. Brummitt is currently on probation for possession of stolen property from April 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 18, 2010 at approximately 6:00 a.m., the owner of a 1996 tan Toyota Avalon parked his vehicle in front of Walgreen's on Geer Road in Turlock and entered the store to make a quick purchase while leaving his car running outside. When he exited the store, he saw Brummitt driving off in his car. The owner then called police to report it stolen.

At 9:30 a.m. on that same morning, Brummitt was walking through Donnelly Park on Pedras Road in Turlock when he saw a sixteen-year-old juvenile sitting on a park bench texting on his Apple iPhone. Brummitt walked over and took the phone from the juvenile. Brummitt then ran to a nearby apartment complex. After the juvenile reported the theft of his phone, an officer went to the apartment complex and located Brummitt in an apartment with the victim's iPhone. The officer also located the stolen car nearby.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Brummitt to three years in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office urges drivers to never leave their vehicle running and unattended.

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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