



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 25, 2011

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Re: Keith James Buenafe

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Auto Thief Gets
5 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Keith James Buenafe, age 36, of Campbell, was convicted on February 25, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle. Buenafe also admitted previous auto theft convictions from July 2007 and November 2009 for which he was still on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 10, 2011 at approximately 3 p.m. in the area of Lander Avenue in Turlock, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Buenafe driving 1999 blue convertible BMW M3 that had been reported stolen the day before out of San Jose. The victim had left his vehicle running but unattended in his driveway while he briefly went back inside his home before leaving for work. When the victim came back outside, his vehicle was being driven away. When the officer questioned Buenafe after stopping him, Buenafe stated “you got me in a stolen car, I’m screwed.”

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Buenafe to five years in state prison.

The District Attorney’s Office urges residents to never leave their vehicles running while 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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