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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 7, 2011

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Re: Matthew Keith Quale

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Auto Thief Gets 3 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matthew Keith Quale, age 28, of Modesto, was convicted on February 7, 2011 of auto theft. Quale is currently on parole for petty theft stemming from a July 2006 conviction out of San Joaquin County. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 29, 2011 at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the area of Rouse Avenue and Figaro Avenue in Modesto, an officer observed Quale driving a 1990 tan Honda Accord that was reported stolen that morning out of the owner's driveway on Scotch Pine Drive in Modesto. After performing a traffic stop, Quale stated that he got the vehicle from a friend but had no contact information for this friend. The officer also observed damage to the ignition key sticking out of the steering column.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Quale to three 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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