



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact:

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Date: March 11, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Roger Lee Beene, Jr

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 3 years, 4 months in prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Roger Lee Beene Jr, age 24, of Turlock, was convicted of attempted possession of a stolen vehicle, evading a peace officer, and resisting arrest. The defendant also admitted a “strike” prior under California’s “Three Strikes” law for attempted carjacking from an April 2006 conviction and for which Beene is currently on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on February 26, 2008 at around 3:30 a.m. in Turlock when Beene was driving a friend’s 1991 black Eagle Talon without permission. When a California Highway Patrol Officer activated his lights and siren to perform a traffic stop, Beene accelerated to over 80+ MPH running stop signs and traffic lights at Monte Vista Avenue, Crows Landing Road, Carpenter Road, Service Road, Whitmore Avenue, and Briggsmore Avenue. Beene then drove over spike strips, set out by officers, which caused the tires on the vehicle to get stuck in a muddy pasture adjacent to the roadway. Beene climbed out of the vehicle and attempted to flee, disobeying the officer’s command to stop. Beene was apprehended a short distance away.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Beene to three years and four months 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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