



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (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

Date: May 13, 2009
Re: Billy Ray Vanhouten-Burglar
Sentenced to 7 years in state prison

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today Billy Ray Vanhouten, age 26, of Hickman, was convicted of auto burglary. He also admitted having a previous felony conviction which falls under California's Three Strikes Law and having previously served one prior prison term. Deputy District Attorney Robert J. Taro prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

The case stemmed from an auto burglary in March 2008. Sheriff's deputies in Hughson encountered Vanhouten and found a variety of property in and around the vehicle he was driving. The deputy sheriffs were able to quickly match the items, such as a checkbook and cell phone, to a recent auto burglary in Modesto.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Vanhouten to 7 years in state prison.

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