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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 13, 2009

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Re: Richard Duane Vaughn

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Duane Vaughn, age 45, of Santa Nella, was convicted of auto theft. Vaughn had previously been sentenced to prison in May 1998 for escaping from the Merced County jail. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., in the parking lot of the Vintage Faire Mall in Modesto, Vaughn approached the victim and asked if the victim had any work for him. The victim told Vaughn that he would pay Vaughn to move the victim's piano. Later that day, while the victim was at a gas station buying refreshments for the two of them, Vaughn drove off with the rented U-Haul truck. The victim had left the keys in the truck while buying snacks in the store. On September 12, 2009 at around midnight in the area of 7th Street and G Street in Modesto, officers stopped Vaughn while he was driving the stolen U-Haul truck. Vaughn claimed that the U-Haul truck was being rented by a friend but that he had no contact information for this friend.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Whiteside sentenced Vaughn to two 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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