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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 9, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Talmadge Gregory  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
Four Years

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Talmadge Gregory, age 31, of Modesto, was convicted on April 9, 2010 of auto theft and admitted a prior auto theft conviction from June 2005 for which he served a term of imprisonment. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 8, 2009 at around noon in the Walgreens located on Paradise Road in Modesto, Gregory attempted to steal some hair products and was caught in the act by an employee. Although Gregory did not leave with any store items, he fled the store and drove off in a 1998 white Chevy Astro van. The employee was able to write down the license plate number. That van had been reported stolen on May 31, 2009 out of the Cost Less store in Modesto when the registered owner left the key in the ignition because, as he stated, he “was too lazy to take it” with him into the store when he went grocery shopping.

On June 9, 2009 around 9:00 a.m., an MPD patrol officer observed the 1998 white Chevy Astro van with the matching license plate number on Champagne Avenue in Modesto. Gregory was driving the van with a female passenger. After a traffic stop was performed, Gregory claimed that a “Christy” gave him the van approximately 15 minutes before the officer stopped him. When confronted with the fact that he was seen in the van the day before, Gregory then stated he received the van the day before from “Christy”.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Gregory to four years in the California Rehabilitation Center.

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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