



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: March 23, 2011

Re: Steven Anthony Heptner

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**Auto Thief Gets
4 Years, 8 Months Prison**

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Anthony Heptner, Jr, age 60, of Modesto, was convicted on March 23, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of methamphetamine. Heptner also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from February 2008 for which he served time in prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 7, 2010 at approximately 12:45 p.m., an officer received a tip that Heptner was driving a stolen 1992 red Peterbilt 3-axle tractor trailer and 1998 flat bed trailer in the area of East Keyes Road and Faith Home Road in Keyes. They had been reported stolen the day before from the parking lot of a business on Grant Road in Manteca. After a traffic stop, Heptner claimed that the owner of the vehicle lent him the truck to run errands in Manteca. Heptner then stated that he lost the key so he “hot wired” the ignition to start the truck. Heptner claimed that he was in Keyes to visit a girl and stated, “I was driving the truck to pretend I had a job to show off for that girl in the trailer park.” After arresting Heptner, the officer located a small baggie of methamphetamine on the driver’s seat where Heptner had been seated.

The Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Heptner to four years and eight 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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