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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 2, 2011

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Re: Jeremy Anthony Montemarrano

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Auto Thief Gets 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jeremy Anthony Montemarrano, age 30, of Modesto, was convicted on February 4, 2011 of commercial burglary, auto theft, and resisting arrest. Montemarrano is currently on parole for possession of methamphetamine stemming from a November 2007 conviction out of Fresno. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 10, 2010 at approximately 1:00 p.m., Montemarrano entered the Valley First Credit Union on J Street in Modesto and attempted to cash a forged check. Montemarrano presented his driver's license and used an ink pad to place his thumbprint on the check. During the transaction, Montemarrano appeared very nervous and the bank teller became suspicious. When the teller called the owner of the check, Montemarrano pretended to receive a phone call and walked out of the bank leaving behind his identification and forged check. The teller then informed the owner that someone was trying to cash one of her checks, and that is when the owner told the teller that she reported her checkbook stolen after a vehicle burglary a year earlier. The teller then called the police and a warrant of arrest was issued for Montemarrano.

On July 11, 2010 at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the area of W. Rumble in Modesto, an officer observed Montemarrano driving a 1997 white Nissan Maxima that was reported stolen out of the Raley's parking lot in Modesto on April 26, 2010. When Montemarrano saw the officer, Montemarrano jumped out of the vehicle and ran but was caught a short distance away.

The Honorable Linda McFadden sentenced Montemarrano 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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