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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 29, 2008
Re: Dana Ahart

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Dana Ahart, age 31, of Modesto, pled to one count of auto theft on Friday, September 26th, and was sentenced by the Honorable Thomas Zeff to four years in state prison. The defendant is currently on parole for a separate auto theft in which he was previously sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 4, 2007, investigators of the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (STANCATT) were at the Security Public Safety storage on McHenry Avenue in Modesto when they observed Mr. Ahart in an open storage unit. They immediately recognized the defendant from previous contacts and confirmed that he had an active warrant for failing to report to his parole officer. When the defendant observed the officers, he shut the door to the unit.

When the officers conducted a search of the unit as a condition of his parole, they found that the unit was being lived in and was equipped with night stands, an inflatable bed with bedding, two couches, an entertainment center with television, space heater, a microwave, refrigerator, and clothing. The defendant's California driver's license and California Department of Corrections identification card were located on a table in the southwest corner of the storage unit.

The officers also found a 2004 Yamaha YZ450 motorcycle that had been stolen on November 12, 2007 during a burglary at Moto World on McHenry Avenue in Modesto when the side door was pried open after business hours. The officers also located a MI-T-M brand 12000- watt generator that had been reported stolen from United Rentals of Modesto on August 14, 2006 (worth \$3,699). In addition, 4 golf bags were recovered that had been reported stolen from McHenry Golf Center on McHenry Avenue in Modesto on November 23, 2007, when their front doors had been pried open after business hours.

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