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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 16, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: John Michael Rothkehl, Jr  
Auto Thief Sentenced to  
16 Months Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that John Michael Rothkehl, Jr, age 28, of Modesto, was convicted of auto burglary and auto theft. Rothkehl is currently on probation for possession of methamphetamine in February 2007. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

During the early morning hours of December 26, 2009 in the area of East Avenue in Turlock, Rothkehl broke into a parked 1993 Toyota Paseo and stole a laptop computer. Acting on a tip, the police located the laptop computer in Rothkehl's residence the next day. After being arrested, Rothkehl posted bail for his release from custody.

On January 26, 2010 at approximately 4:30 a.m. at the Turlock Rest Area off of Highway 99, Rothkehl was located sleeping in the passenger seat of a 1997 red Pontiac Grand Prix that belonged to the mother of Rothkehl's children. The car had been reported stolen two weeks earlier when Rothkehl drove off in the vehicle after an argument with owner.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Rothkehl to sixteen 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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