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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 7, 2011

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Thomas Joshua Ware

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Auto Thief Gets 4 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Thomas Joshua Ware, age 34, of Modesto, was convicted on February 3, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle and two counts of evading a peace officer. Ware also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from August 2004 for which he served a term of imprisonment. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 19, 2010 at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the area of Rose Avenue and Floyd Avenue in Modesto, an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) observed Ware driving a 1997 white Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck. When Ware saw the officer observing him, Ware accelerated away at a high rate of speed. The truck had been reported stolen on May 10, 2010 out of Modesto. The owner had lent the car to a friend to use for two hours but that friend had never returned. When the officer activated his red lights and siren, Ware failed to stop. Ware failed to yield at posted stop signs and red traffic signals, and exceeded the speed limit by traveling 45 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h. zone. When another officer used a stop stick to deflate Ware's left front tire, Ware kept driving leaving behind a smoke trail which the officers were able to follow. Finally, Ware stopped the vehicle and ran. He was caught a short distance away. After being arrested, Ware posted bail and was released from custody. Ware then failed to appear on his court date.

On November 23, 2010 at approximately 7:30 p.m., an officer received a tip from Ware's bail bondsman that Ware was in the area of Hemminger Way and Carver Road in Modesto. When the officer arrived, he observed Ware getting inside a white Chevrolet Astrovan. The officer then

activated his red lights and siren to perform a traffic stop, but once again Ware accelerated away ignoring stop signs and traffic signals. Ware eventually stopped the van and ran, but was apprehended quickly.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Ware to four 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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