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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 21, 2011

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Re: Frank Jay Yrigoyen, Jr

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Auto Thief Gets
7 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Frank Jay Yrigoyen, Jr, age 53, of Ceres, was convicted on March 21, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle. Yrigoyen also admitted a previous auto theft conviction from September 2003, as well as three prior convictions that resulted in prison terms: possession of methamphetamine for sale in September 1992; commercial burglary in March 2000; and transportation of heroin in June 2005. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On August 31, 2010 at approximately 5:30 p.m., an officer from the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCATT) received a tip that a stolen 1937 black Dodge business pick-up truck was located in the backyard that belonged to Yrigoyen's friend in the area of Bystrum Road and Sonora Avenue in Modesto. The anonymous tip stated that Yrigoyen and his friend were both working on the truck. The vehicle was reported stolen the day before from the garage of a home in Modesto after the victim returned from a month long vacation and discovered that his truck was missing. Since Yrigoyen's friend was on parole, the officer conducted a parole search and discovered the vehicle in the backyard. Yrigoyen and his friend claimed to have bought the vehicle from an acquaintance, but had no pink slip or contact information for this acquaintance.

The Honorable Linda McFadden sentenced Yrigoyen to seven years in state prison.

Yrigoyen's friend had previously pled guilty to possession of a stolen vehicle and was also sentenced to 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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