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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: April 20, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Douglas Lee Gowin

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 8 months prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Douglas Lee Gowin, age 48, of Modesto, was convicted of attempted possession of a stolen vehicle. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on March 16, 2009 at around 6 p.m. in the area of Benson Avenue and Larkin Avenue in Modesto. Gowin attempted to possess a 1990 white Nissan pick-up that had been reported stolen out of Newark, CA on January 22, 2009. The steering column had been damaged when a deputy from the Sheriff's Department observed Gowin by the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Donald Shaver sentenced Gowin to eight months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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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