



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: May 22, 2009

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Re: Mathew Lee Oneal

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 5 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Mathew Lee Oneal, age 44, of Coulterville, was convicted of auto theft. Oneal also admitted a prior conviction for residential burglary, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from February 2000 for which he served a term in prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on April 2, 2009 at approximately 8 p.m. in Modesto when Sheriff’s deputies received a LoJack notification that a 2004 yellow Caterpillar tractor and trailer, reported stolen out of San Jose that morning, were in the area. Deputies then observed Oneal towing the tractor and trailer and performed an enforcement stop and verified that the vehicles were stolen. Oneal claimed that he bought the tractor and trailer, but had no contact information for the seller nor a bill of sale, proof of title, or proof of insurance.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Oneal to five 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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