



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: May 12, 2011

Re: Jimmy Lee Groves

Contact: Carol Shipley

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Auto Thief Sentenced to
5 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jimmy Lee Groves, age 27, of Turlock, was convicted on May 12, 2011 of auto theft. Groves also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from June 2004 as well as a conviction for residential burglary, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law, from June 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 26, 2011 at approximately noon in the area of Main Street and El Paso Avenue in Modesto, an undercover officer from the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) was following a 1994 green Saturn SL that had been reported stolen the day before out of the owner’s driveway on Chestnut Street in Turlock. When the officer coordinated with a marked patrol car to pull the stolen vehicle over, the driver of the stolen car accelerated away. Several minutes later, Groves jumped out of the driver’s seat of the stolen vehicle and started to run, but was caught a short distance away. The officer then observed damage to the ignition of the stolen car. Groves claimed a friend gave him the car but he had no contact information for this friend.

The Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Groves 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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