



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Two Sacramento Men Convicted of Poaching Deer

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on October 1, 2009 a Yolo County Jury convicted Andrew Thao and Ernest Lytell of Fish and Game crimes, evading the police and resisting arrest. The crimes stemmed from a November 2007 incident in which Sheriff’s deputies found two illegally taken buck deer in their possession.

On November 7, 2007 a truck driven by Andrew Thao led Yolo County Sheriff’s deputies on a high speed chase from County Road 117 to West Sacramento. Ernest Lytell was one of three passengers. The chase reached speeds of up to 115 mph, and endangered numerous cars in oncoming traffic.

When the truck reached West Sacramento, the truck ran over some police “Stop Sticks” and ran off the road. As soon as the truck came to a stop, all four occupants immediately fled from the truck.

Sheriff’s deputies inventoried the truck and found two large buck deer in the truck bed. Two rifles, ammunition, and a spotlight were also found.

With the help of a K-9 officer, three of the four passengers were quickly apprehended. The jury convicted Andrew Thao of felony reckless evading, two Fish and Game violations, and resisting arrest. The jury convicted Ernest Lytell of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm, the two Fish and Game violations and resisting arrest. Another passenger was a juvenile and the fourth is still at large.

Deputy District Attorney Clinton Parish prosecuted the case. He stated, “Crimes against wildlife are taken seriously in Yolo County. This is a matter of public safety as well as protecting our environment. Our Sheriff’s deputies did an outstanding job in this case.”

Each defendant faces a maximum of three years in prison. Yolo County Superior Court Judge Thomas Warriner will sentence the defendants on October 29, 2009.

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