



City of Chowchilla POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

Date: March 18, 2008

To: MEDIA

From: David Noblett, Police Sergeant

Subject: **Insurance Fraud Suspects Arrested**

On Sunday, March 16, 2008, Sgt. David Noblett of the Chowchilla Police Department saw a column of smoke coming from the area of Avenue 25 and Road 12. Sgt. Noblett drove to the area to check for the source of the fire to advise responding fire personnel. The source of the fire turned out to be a vehicle that was fully engulfed on the bank of the Ash Slough. Fire personnel from Cal Fire and the Chowchilla Volunteer Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire. While officers and fire personnel were still on scene, the registered owner of the vehicle called the Chowchilla Police Department and reported her car stolen. Officers responded to her location where a stolen vehicle report was taken.

After collecting evidence at the scene, officers were suspicious of the circumstances under which the car was taken and continued to follow up with the case. Officer Rick Hunter and Officer Aaron Ketchum followed several leads which led them to the registered owner of the vehicle and a family member. Ashlynn Joslin, (19) of Chowchilla and Eric Williams, (32) of Chowchilla, were arrested later that same day on charges of arson, insurance fraud, conspiracy, and false report of a vehicle theft. Williams was also arrested on a parole hold. "The determination of Officer Hunter and Officer Ketchum resulted in the arrest of the two individuals in this case" stated Sgt. Noblett. "As a result of their tenacity and instinct, two people are in custody and the insurance company was saved a substantial amount of money".