BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE **: 3/23/12**

RELEASED BY **: Sergeant G. Reeves**

CONTACT # **: (530)538-7231**

On 3/21/12, Paradise resident, Robert Rose, called the Butte County Sheriff's Office to report his airplane had been taken from the hangar he kept it in at the Paradise Airport. Deputy Earl Klapperich responded to the airport to investigate and discovered that Rose had been contacted by Chowchilla Police Department who alerted him that his airplane was in their jurisdiction. Upon learning that the airplane was taken without the owner's permission, Chowchilla officers arrested Lonnie Blackburn (DOB: 7/19/65), the man in possession of the aircraft.

Deputy Klapperich took a report to document the burglary to the hangar. Access to the inside of the hangar was made through the back wall. He is working with Detective Scott at Chowchilla Police Department to aid in their investigation and prosecution of Blackburn who is in custody there for Grand Theft and Possession of Stolen Property; there may be more charges pending.

As Deputy Klapperich was leaving Paradise Airport he saw a car, a silver 2007 Chevrolet Avalon, concealed in the bushes nearby. This car had been reported stolen to Chico Police Department. Deputy Klapperich recovered the stolen car. It has not been determined yet if the car is related to the theft of the airplane.

Anyone with any information about any of these crimes is encouraged to call the Butte County Sheriff's Office at (530)538-7321.