

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**BIG SUR WOMAN FOUND GUILTY
OF DUI AND VANDALISM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on October 31, 2018, after a three-day jury trial. Adrienne Marie Elder, a 55-year-old resident of Big Sur, was found guilty of driving under the influence and vandalism. The jury further found true an enhancement for excessive blood alcohol of over 0.15%. After the verdict was reached, Elder admitted having two prior convictions for DUI.

On January 20, 2017, Elder was driving on Highway 1 in Big Sur after an evening of drinking in Carmel. At approximately 1:00 a.m., Elder's vehicle crossed over into the opposite lane of the highway, crashed into a roadside embankment, and came to rest in the middle of the road after flipping onto its side. After a PG&E worker helped Elder out of her vehicle, she abandoned her vehicle and began walking south down the highway. A passer-by picked her up and gave her a ride home. California Highway Patrol officers responded to the accident scene and were able to locate Elder's address based on the vehicle's registration information.

Several hours later CHP arrived at Elder's address to check on her welfare. The officers discovered that Elder, in a drunken rage, had vandalized her boyfriend's camper when she returned home after the crash. After determining that she had been the driver during the crash, officers conducted a DUI investigation and found that her blood alcohol concentration was well over 0.15%.

The case was heard by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez. Judge Vazquez will sentence Elder on November 7, 2018.

California Highway Patrol Officer Baenziger investigated the case and provided testimony at trial.

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