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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PACIFIC GROVE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER WHILE INTOXICATED**

*People v Napier; Case No. 18CR0115727, 19CR005640 & 19CR002672;*

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Stewart Maxwell Napier, age 25 and a resident of Pacific Grove, was sentenced to 7 years in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the collision that killed Gregory Anthony Acona. Napier was convicted of charges in three separate cases. He was sentenced to one count of vehicular manslaughter while under the influence, one count of unlawful taking of a vehicle and one count of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury.

On December 5, 2018, Napier was driving on Highway 1 near the 8<sup>th</sup> Street overcrossing. He said he looked down for a lighter and when he looked back up, he saw the victim's brake lights and collided with him causing the victim's car to swerve off the road and burst into flames. Mr. Acona died at the scene.

California Highway Patrol Officers conducted a DUI investigation and concluded the defendant was under the influence of methamphetamines and heroin. Napier admitted to ingesting both substances before the collision.

On March 4, 2019, Napier was involved in a fight at the Monterey County jail where he and his co-defendants inmates injured another inmate.

On August 21, 2017, officers responded to a vehicle theft. After a thorough investigation officers were able to match DNA found in the vehicle to the defendant.

California Highway Patrol Officers Rodgers, Dutra, Baenziger and the CHP MAIT team were instrumental in conducting the investigation that resulted in the arrest and conviction. This case was presented by District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Vertical Prosecution Unit. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.