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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: June 1, 2010  
Re: Larry Dale Melton  
Drunk Driver Convicted

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Larry Dale Melton, age 62, of Modesto, was convicted on June 1, 2010 after a 3-day jury trial of driving under the influence and having a blood alcohol concentration of .15 percent or more. Deputy District Attorney Jared Jordan prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 24, 2008 at 11:00 p.m., two people witnessed a 2004 Ford F-250 pickup driving erratically on northbound Highway 99 just north of Turlock. The pickup was observed driving in the number 2 lane and weaving into the number 3 lane 3 to 4 times. The witnesses pulled alongside the pickup and were almost run off the road. They observed a lone, older white male driving the vehicle. The witnesses followed the vehicle as it got off Highway 99 at Kansas Ave. The truck went westbound in the eastbound lanes of traffic on Kansas as it crossed over Highway 99. The vehicle continued to Carpenter Road where it turned northbound from Kansas. The witnesses watched the pickup park, the driver's side door open, and a lone, older male got out of the driver's side. The driver walked into the building and quickly returned to his vehicle where he entered the driver's side and started the engine. The witnesses had been on the phone with 911 for the duration of this trip.

An officer from the Modesto Police Department responded. When he arrived, he found the pickup matching the description given by the reporting parties. The vehicle's engine was running and Melton was seated in the driver's seat. Melton got out and told the officer he had driven to the building to check the locks and he was the building's owner. The officer noticed objective symptoms of alcohol use. A DUI investigation was conducted and Melton was arrested. Melton's blood alcohol level was .18.

Upon receiving the verdict, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova placed Melton on 3 years informal probation, ordered him to pay specified fines, and sentenced Melton to 8 days in the county jail.

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